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KENT ON SUNDAY

Published by **KOS MEDIA LTD** Telephone: (01303) 817000 **IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT** No.379 December 27, 2009 On sale 90p





WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

THIS IS SNOW WAY TO GO ON

Travellers and politicians say enough is enough as county's roads and railways grind to a halt – again

FURIOUS motorists, commuters and politicians are demanding action after severe weather once again brought chaos across Kent's road and rail networks this week.

Traffic was brought to a standstill and trains cancelled during the icy onslaught, while thousands of Eurostar customers were left stranded for days when a series of breakdowns brought the cross-Channel service to its knees.

But while many have grown to accept the county will inevitably grind to a halt when it snows, others are sending out the angry message that enough is enough.

Ian Taylor – Kent spokesman for the Association of British Drivers – said it was about time highways chiefs ensured they were better prepared for a cold snap.

He said: "On the one hand we don't have the same weather Scandinavian countries, so it would not be cost-effective to do all the things they do to tackle the snow and ice.

"Having said that, it always strikes me that there's always a grand show put on about how

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

ready the Highways Agency and Kent County Council are to deal with the weather, and yet still things go chaotic.

"Perhaps the powers that be ought to start getting a little better prepared for it. There's definitely room for improvement."

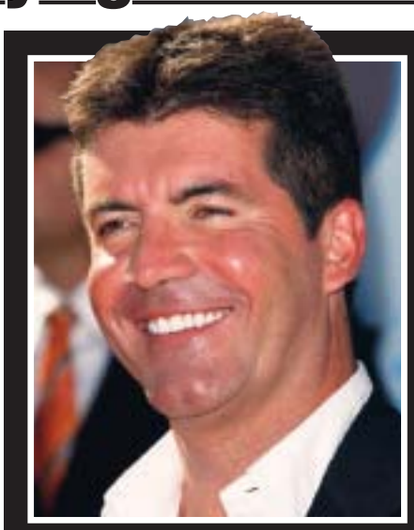
Despite the sorry state of many of the county's roads, KCC cabinet member for highways Cllr Nick Chard insisted all 53 primary routes were salted six times and 48 secondary routes four times between last Thursday night and Sunday. He added that 6,500 tonnes of salt was used over the weekend.

The traffic chaos caused by the snow was compounded late last week when Kent Police closed the M20 between Maidstone and Ashford so Operation Stack could be implemented.

The process, which turns the motorway into a giant lorry park, was necessary because the Channel Tunnel was closed and ferries were unable to disembark at Calais.

But perhaps the most distressing problem

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE



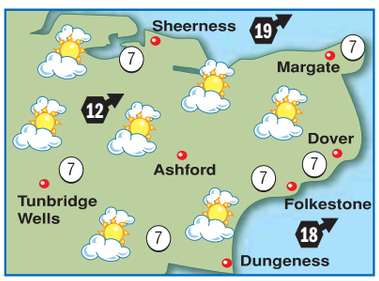
Christmas Cowell is not such a Scrooge after all

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY



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Kent today



TODAY: An increasingly windy day. It will be a mostly dry day with spells of sunshine and variable cloud. Just the chance of a shower. A fresh south-westerly breeze. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with variable cloud and clear intervals. There will be a fresh southerly wind. Min temp 1-4C (34-39F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	sleet	3	37	London	showers	5	41
Belfast	snow	2	36	Liverpool	cloudy	4	39
Birmingham	showers	5	41	Manchester	cloudy	3	37
B'mouth	showers	7	45	Newcastle	snow	2	36
Bristol	showers	6	43	Norwich	sleet	5	41
Cardiff	cloudy	4	39	Oxford	showers	4	39
Cork	fair	2	36	Southsea	showers	7	45
Edinburgh	snow	2	36	S'hampton	showers	5	41
Glasgow	cloudy	1	34	Southport	cloudy	4	39
Isle of Man	fair	5	41	Swansea	cloudy	6	43
Leeds	snow	0	32	Torquay	showers	6	43

Sun & moon

Sunrise	8.02am	Sunset	3.51pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	12.06pm	Moonset	3.04am	3.51pm to 8.02am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	00.55	6.4	13.12	6.1	01.30	6.3	13.45	6.0
Margate	01.42	4.5	14.15	4.3	02.14	4.5	14.49	4.2
St Mary's	06.43	5.3	19.00	5.0	07.18	5.2	19.34	4.8

Week ahead

monday Light rain max 7C min -8C

tuesday Light showers max 8C min 1C

wednesday Light rain max 6C min 1C

thursday Showers max 7C min -1C

friday Cloudy max 6C min 0C

saturday Cloudy max 7C min 0C

- **EDITOR:** Ian Patel
- **ADDRESS:** Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SR.
- **WEBSITE:** www.kentnews.co.uk
- **MOBILE WAP SERVICE:** www.kentnews.co.uk/mobile
- **TELEPHONE:** 01303 817000
- **FAX (ADVERTISING):** 01303 817001
- **FAX (EDITORIAL):** 01303 817002
- **EMAIL:** EDITORIAL: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk ADVERTISING: sales@kosmedia.co.uk

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Printed by Archant Print.

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Merger of forces dismissed despite minister's support

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk



WAITING GAME: Kent and Essex police forces have been sharing resources for some time

WHITEHALL officials are putting pressure on Kent Police to merge with the Essex force in a desperate bid to save money.

Despite the Home Office insisting this would be on a voluntary basis, a White Paper actively encouraged forces to join up with each other.

Kent was one of four forces highlighted, with Essex as its potential merger partner.

Joint partnership working between the two forces has been ongoing for years, but ministers are now calling for them to consider joining up permanently.

Policing minister David Hanson MP said he is happy to support the voluntary mergers.

"Chief constables and police authorities have to tackle serious organised crime and counter terrorism as well as the crucial neighbourhood policing that is so valuable to people locally," he said.

"Where they think those services could be provided better by merging with a neighbouring force the Policing White Paper sets out a comprehensive programme to support it."

A Home Office spokesman stressed the Government would never impose a full police merger if either force was unhappy, but cited that it would help save the country money.

"This is just one way of making savings, but if a force was against the move it wouldn't be made to do it – it's not compulsory," he said.

But the Policing and Crime Act, which was given Royal Assent last month, gave the Home Secretary the power to direct police authorities about collaboration agreements.

Some policing insiders fear this could give Government the power to enforce mergers in an underhand way.

A spokesperson from Kent Police said this county's constabulary, Essex Police, and their Police Authorities currently have no plans to merge, but would continue to link up certain resources.

"The two forces and authorities have a history of working together and created a more formal collaboration around two-and-a-half years ago," she said.

"While some resources are shared, for example the use of the police helicopter and mounted police, the intention has always been to maintain the distinct identity of each force."

Innovative

Since the collaboration project in 2007, more than £2.5 million has been saved for Kent Police.

But Ann Barnes, chairwoman of the Police Authority, said this does not mean a future merger is on the cards.

"A few years ago the Home Office suggested forces merging and both communities made it very clear they wanted their own police force and their own chief constable," she said.

"We have listened to this and I'm confident it will stay this way.

"The White Paper is clear the future agenda is not about compulsory mergers of police forces, but about really innovative and imaginative collaboration that secures significant savings and improves the service to the public.

"And that's the approach we are taking here in Kent and Essex."

The recent White Paper called on police forces across the country to create joint specialist units and investigation teams to save money.

Kent Police's Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Leppard said they are already working with Essex on proposals to form a Specialist Crime Directorate.

Police forces across the UK have been asked to cut their spending, despite the Chancellor of the Exchequer promising to protect front-line policing in his pre-budget report.

Howard has father's remains exhumed

THE remains of the father of former Conservative party leader Michael Howard have been exhumed from a Jewish cemetery and moved to Hertfordshire.

Mr Howard's father Bernard was buried in Townhill Jewish Cemetery in Swansea in 1966, but the MP for Folkestone and Hythe wanted his father buried in Bushey Cemetery with his recently deceased mother.

Mr Howard also helped to pay some of the expenses of a team working to restore the Swansea cemetery which had been vandalised and was overgrown.



HEROIC: Rfl James Brown

Soldier's body flown home from Helmand

THE bodies of two soldiers killed in Afghanistan were flown back to the UK on Tuesday.

Rifleman James Brown, 18, from Orpington, and L/Cpl David Kirkness, 24, of West Yorkshire, died trying to stop suicide bombers in Helmand last week.

The soldiers' bodies were flown into RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire. After a private ceremony for their families, the funeral cortege passed along the high street of nearby Wootton Bassett.

The pair died after suicide bombers on a motorbike drove into a checkpoint and detonated their bombs.



X Factor's Cowell rides to horse refuge rescue

X FACTOR'S Mr Nasty has come to the rescue of sick and abused horses at a refuge under threat of being shut down, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Music mogul Simon Cowell, fresh from losing the race for the Christmas number one single, heard about the possible closure of The Horse Refuge, near Tenterden, and completely out of the blue, contacted owners Sara and Alan Ross to offer his help.



HE'S MR NICE: Simon Cowell

The 50-year-old record producer has even asked his celebrity friends not to buy him any Christmas gifts and to instead donate to the sanctuary.

He aims to raise £600,000 through his campaign to help horse experts Mr and Mrs Ross continue to run their refuge from Dobells Farm in Wittersham.

The couple recently received devastating news that the farm was being sold and unless they could raise the funds to buy it, they would be evicted.

Mrs Ross told Kent on Sunday that if that happens, many of the 40 horses they look after – which are too old or sick to travel – would die. But animal-lover Cowell has stepped in to help the couple.

Mrs Ross said: "I received a call two weeks ago from his secretary saying he wanted me to come in and see him.

"It was completely unexpected. He told me that he wants to raise awareness and help save the sanctuary. He said he was proud of our wonderful work and wants to make sure it continues. He has thrown us a lifeline – we have a chance now."

Mrs Ross described Cowell as a wonderful man, which is at odds with his Mr Nasty persona on ITV show The X Factor.

She said: "He was absolutely lovely, really kind and warm. He has a real passion for animals."

Music executive Cowell – who studied at Dover College – is pushing for people to recognise the plight of The Horse Refuge and give generously. It is reported that he has made a big donation, although the amount has not been revealed.

Mr and Mrs Ross have until January to raise the £600,000 needed to cement the future of the sanctuary, which is home to Duke, said to be Europe's tallest horse, standing at 6ft 6in.

"We look after lots of horses with special needs and horses that are unwanted," Mrs Ross told Kent on Sunday.

"It's a lot worse now with the credit crunch and people can't afford to keep them. The campaign is still new, but hopefully we won't have to leave."

Mrs Ross launched the refuge in 1995 with the sole purpose of ending the suffering of sick and unwanted horses.

Some are re-homed, but others who are too old, sick or abused to leave live permanently at the sanctuary.

The refuge has a number of patrons including British actress Jenny Seagrove and Minder star Gary Webster.

Mrs Ross is also hoping to make Cowell a patron. For information on how to donate, go to www.thehorserefuge.org.



LIFELINE: Sara Ross says Simon Cowell's help has given the horse refuge a chance of survival

Tony's cunning plan

TIME Team TV presenter Tony Robinson is encouraging us all to walk off Christmas dinner with a stroll through a wood.

The actor, who played Baldrick in the Blackadder sitcoms, is backing the Woodland Trust's Christmas card recycling scheme.

The charity is asking people to recycle their cards in special bins at WHSmith, TK Maxx and Marks & Spencer during January.

Mr Robinson said: "Visit a Trust wood in Kent to experience a fabulous festive walk.

"Our woods are the lungs of the UK and beautiful places for people to walk, rest and relax."

Vic goes wild for art

PORT Lympne Wild Animal Park is organising a wildlife art exhibition and offering the chance to see your work in a show to be opened by funnyman Vic Reeves.

The park, near Hythe, will hold the exhibition over the Easter break and all budding wildlife artists are invited to submit work.

All mediums will be considered, with 30 per cent of the price of each piece sold being donated to the Aspinall Foundation. Contact Vic Sharrat on vic@vicsharratwildlifeimages.com. The deadline for submission is February 20.

To see this clip, search 'Tudors' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



OWLS OF DELIGHT: Discover how our Tudor ancestors would have celebrated the festive season

Grinding to a halt – again

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

caused by the snow was the breakdown of five Eurostar trains in the Channel Tunnel on Friday, December 18, leaving thousands of passengers stranded for days on both sides.

The company blamed the problems on condensation affecting the trains' electrical systems, caused by an "unprecedented" cold snap in France.

However, Kent Liberal Democrat MEP Sharon Bowles said it was about time Eurostar "got its act together".

She added: "I know from personal experience that breakdowns and other problems can cause very long delays on Eurostar.

"At one of the busiest times of year I find it very worrying there were not adequate emergency provisions.

Ruined

"Compensation is being given to passengers, but a small amount of money and a free ticket does not compensate for a ruined holiday. Eurostar must run a reliable service and have better contingency plans in place if things go wrong."

Shadow transport minister Julian Brazier wrote to his Labour counterpart Paul Clark, the MP for Gillingham and Rainham, to express his concerns about the incident.

He wrote: "In practice, as the trains had only broken down the only effect of this was inconvenience and discomfort.

"But had there been a fire or explosion, the consequences of such a breakdown could have been serious indeed."

Eurostar announced earlier this week that an independent review into the problems had already begun.

Mr Brazier, who is the Tory MP for Canterbury and Whitstable, told KOS Media it was unacceptable for the county to grind to a halt every time it snows.

He said: "There's no one golden bullet, but the problems around the Channel Tunnel, the trains, the roads and Operation Stack all need to be tackled, and by a fabric of small improvements we can hopefully sort this out.

"One of the things we as a party want to do is make Network Rail provide a better service, and we have a string of proposals on that because problems are usually down to the network rather than the trains.

"We would shake up the corporate governance, set up competitions for engineering contracts and get a better service out of train operators by giving them longer contracts."

Former transport minister Steve Ladyman – the Labour MP for South Thanet – said such travel chaos was "not acceptable, but understandable".

He added: "If councils were to invest in the sort of snow gear they use in Norway and Sweden then it would be standing there idle for 51 weeks of the year and wouldn't be good value for money.

"Because we've had some bad winters for several years now it might be the time to ask ourselves if we have the balance right and maybe upgrade some of our equipment, but I don't think we should go over the top.

"We should look at all ideas of improving the situation if they are affordable. Opposition MPs always act as if they have a magic answer to every problem, but that's not the case."

• ***Winter wonderland: See page 5 for our readers' pictures of the snow.***



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It's snow time

WHILE the winter weather brought misery to travellers, it wasn't all doom and gloom.

Children grabbed to chance to build snowmen have snowball fights, while the white landscape was treat for amateur photographers. Here are some of the pictures taken by Kent on Sunday readers.



DIGGING DEEP: Adrian T digs in an Allington winterland



FUN IN THE SNOW: Sam the snowman by Jonathon and Liam Winstanley



WAY TO TRAVEL: Huskies pull a sledge in Eagle Heights, Eynsford near Dartford



UNDERCOVER: Wintery scene sent in by Barry Smith of Rainham



SNOWED IN: Ellen asks 'where's my car?'

To see this clip search 'snow' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Scenes from heavy snow which fell in and around the village of Smeeth near Ashford this year

Call to share Stack burden

By **ANNA WHITE**
anna.white@kosmedia.co.uk

POLICE leaders are urging other agencies to help pay towards the £2 million needed to run Operation Stack, instead of forcing Kent's taxpayers to foot the bill.

Operation Stack is implemented on junctions 8-9 and 11-12 of the M20 should ferries or the Channel Tunnel stop running – turning the motorway into a lorry park until services to Europe resumes.



EXPENSE: Operation Stack is costing Kent taxpayers around £2 million each year

The responsibility for Stack originally fell with Kent Police when it first ran on the A2 at Lydden in the 1980s, as the Highways Agency did not exist, but now Kent Police Authority says it is time to share the burden.

Ann Barnes, chair of the authority, has called for a long-term solution after the bill for policing the foreign lorries during 2008-09 cost Kent taxpayers about £2 million and took up hundreds of hours of valuable police time.

Mrs Barnes said: "No-one has taken any responsibility for Operation Stack. This is not a local problem, but a national one. Our officers should be in our communities and our neighbourhoods keeping people safe and doing what we pay them to do.

"It's shocking that police time is spent babysitting foreign lorry drivers. It's unfair that our police council taxpayers in Kent have to pay for this. But from a safety perspective we have no choice."

"Without Kent Police, Operation Stack would grind the county to a halt. The economic impact would be enormous. We are reliant on the dedication and professionalism of our police but can't go on like this.

"There needs to be a long-term solution."

Chief executive of KPA, Mark Gilmartin, said: "We are not trying to shift the responsibility completely but we need to look at other agencies getting involved.

"Kent Police needs to be involved as there is the safety issue, but it's not right to always use our frontline resources, our officers should be in the community."

In response to the police authority's call for extra help to operate Stack, the Highways Agency sais it has contributed and does not have the funds to give anymore.

Investment

A spokesman said: "The Highways Agency has made significant capital investment – around £10m in the last four years – into Operation Stack including provision of the Quickchange Moveable Barrier, advance signing on approaches to junctions on the M20, CCTV, traffic officers and other associated costs.

"We do not have the funds for the running of Operation Stack, but are working closely with Kent Police to develop how we handle traffic and develop ways of working that reduce the overall resources needed."

The effect of Stack, when implemented, also hits companies financially. The Federation of Small Businesses estimated blockades at Calais port and the subsequent stoppage of crossings costs the UK haulage industry £1m a day.

And with delays on deliveries and traffic problems caused by Stack, a further half a million daily is lost.

Motorists were faced with the results of Stack during the weekend, as a result of the heavy snowfall since last Thursday which halted ferries from disembarking at Calais and forced the Channel Tunnel to close.

It was introduced at about 5am on Saturday and lifted in the early hours of Monday morning. Drivers were left queuing between Junctions 8-9 for hours.

The latest implementation of Stack follows three other occasions it has been brought in this year and 21 times last year – which includes the eight implementations for the SeaFrance strike between February 28 and March 15.

Kent Council County's favoured option to deal with Stack is to open giant lorry parks to keep truckers of the M20 when the ports are closed.

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THE INTERVIEW

BY CHRIS BRITCHER

Preparing our next generation



BIG JOB: Bill Fearon is being kept busy

BILL Fearon is an imposing figure. He peers down from his height of six-foot-something in a calm, measured way.

Yet on his broad shoulders rests the education of thousands of our youngsters and adult learners.

Because Mr Fearon is the principal of West Kent College at a point, in its long history, of massive change and significance.

Anyone who has driven past the campus in Tonbridge's Brook Street will be only too aware of the huge redevelopment project currently under way.

Practically the entire site is being pulled down and rebuilt in an ambitious project dubbed Campus 21. It's not cheap either. Some £86 million of public money is being ploughed into it. But then this is our community's future we're talking about.

And while Mr Fearon works in his office overlooking the tarpaulin-wrapped latest stage of the development, he also has the small issue of assisting in the creation of a new 'super' college in the county.

Long discussed, and now waiting on the Government, the plan is to take the successful West Kent College and apply its approach to the troubled South Kent College. The result will – hopefully – be a merged giant. A new college with a new name, sprawling across the county with bases in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Folkestone and Dover.

Between the rebuild and the merger plans, there's also the threat of funding cuts from central government. It's a big job.

"There are pressures," the 54-year-old admits, "but they are very welcome. I would much rather have these sort of pressures.

"Over 70 colleges have had their projects turned down or cancelled. We were one of the last to get money so we are grateful every day."

While the recession has bitten huge chunks out of most industries, education has seen a surge in demand.

Difficulty

With the employment market in a state of uncertainty, youngsters are preferring to stay within the comfort zone of continued learning, while all ages are seeking more qualifications to give them the edge in a competitive and evolving marketplace.

Mr Fearon explains: "We are about 20 per cent over-enrolled for our 18-24 target for this year. We can take them on although we don't get any extra money for them.

"The difficulty will come with the cuts in funding in the colleges sector – as there will be in all the public sectors – with a new government next year. There will be a limit to the numbers we can take. We may get to the point we are turning away young adults.

"History shows economic downturns increase enrolments at colleges – and that's probably true to sixth forms at schools to an extent. The flip side is that some of our students can't or won't afford the fee had they been employed and drawing a salary."

The college remains more and more focused on providing vocational courses.

Yet Mr Fearon himself admits he rather fell into the profession.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, so I did teacher training at Loughborough University and drifted into the profession. Then I found myself thrust into a vibrant, dynamic comprehensive in Essex. But I enjoyed it. And I realised I'd landed on my feet."

Having previously gained a degree in business studies, he taught PE, maths and economics.

After attempts of running his own business – he committed himself to teaching in 1982 when he got married and decided to pursue the security offered as a full-time lecturer rather than going it alone in business – he quickly climbed the career ladder.

From a stint at Barking College he served as a manager at Harlow College and then deputy principal at London's Southwark College. He moved to West Kent College seven and a half years ago.

So just how has the youth of the day changed over the decades?

"We have 14 and 16-year-old youngsters on day release programmes and in many ways they are more mature, streetwise and better informed than previous generations. Certainly when it comes to IT.

"But they are less experienced in other things. So it evens itself out.

"They come here and they do well. They like the college environment. They like the fact they're coming to do something practical and we get the positive side. The changes we've seen in the 16-18-year-olds is increased demand for more vocational qualifications; so we have developed those.

"You would have thought WKC, given its location and all the commuting into London, would have had financial services as one of its specialities. But in fact we don't.

Demand

"We have a lot of accounts courses, but there's a huge demand for health and social care. Construction crafts are very popular.

"Then there's the arts, performing arts, media, and there's always demand for beauty therapy, hairdressing and catering. So it's really widespread.

"The young people who come here seem to demand, quite rightly so, qualifications that will best fit their career.

"Many aren't set on a career at 16-18 – some are, but many aren't – but they use us as a taster for a particular career.

"A high proportion of people come here then go to university. Some will go into apprenticeships, the rest will get work. A negligible number will be unemployed for any length of time."



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KCC defends £1.7m staff 'exit pay-offs'

A MASSIVE £1.7 million has been paid to former Kent County Council employees over the past five years to help avoid unfair dismissal claims.

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

Of the 54 members of staff involved in the so-called 'exit packages', seven were directors who between them received a total of nearly £1m in pay-offs.

Individual amounts given to each employee – which averaged £31,500 – were not made known because of confidentially rules.

The figures were revealed when Lib Dem Cllr Tim Prater questioned Cllr Roger Gough, cabinet member for corporate support services and performance management.

Cllr Gough said the figures represented all compromise agreements, or pay-offs, reached by KCC in the past five years, which in some cases can prevent unfair dismissal claims.

Problematic

He said: "As noted in the compromise agreement protocols, it represents an alternative route for both an employer and employee to go through a formal staff procedure that is, or may be expected to be, particularly problematic."

But he insisted that entering into an agreement did not imply the council had failed in its responsibilities or processes.

He also said that some of these payments would have been paid out anyway under employees' contracts and they were not necessarily to avoid unfair dismissal claims

The Tory councillor said: "The total of compromise agreements does not represent actions taken to avoid the possibility of an unfair dismissal claim."

But Cllr Prater said it raised questions about how staff and directors were being managed within the council.

"Of the 15 to 20 highly-paid directors, the council got rid of seven which is quite worrying," he said. "You've got to question why they received such pay-offs. They weren't made redundant because their posts still exist.

"If they'd done something wrong they would've been sacked.

"As far as I can see they weren't doing their jobs properly, but the management wasn't in place to resolve this and it resulted in pay-offs to get rid of them quickly and easily.

"People shouldn't be paid off because they might sue. There needs to be a better structure of management in place."

Cllr Gough defended the pay-off figure of £1,703,037, saying the 54 former employees represented a small number of cases when put in the context of the total of non-schools workforce, which is about 14,000.

"It represents an average cost of just over £31,500 which compares with all-in annual costs per employee per year of £34,000," he said.

"Compromise agreement protocols lay down clear guidelines on the process to be applied before any payment can be made in these cases."

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Copenhagen conference 'was in vain'

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE FAILURE of world leaders to agree targets to cut emissions means the climate change conference in Copenhagen was in vain, Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark has said.

Mr Clark, the shadow energy and climate change secretary, said he was disappointed by the outcome of the United Nations summit, which ended on Saturday at 9.30am after a tense all-night meeting failed to thrash out a deal.

"Clearly it is very disappointing, the progress that was made did not involve anything tangible in terms of emissions," he said. "It seems frustrating that it was in vain."

Steve Dawe, spokesman for the Kent Green Party said the conference was an "utter failure" because the Copenhagen Accord, which was the deal finally agreed after two-weeks of negotiations in the Danish capital, did not set binding targets.

He said: "We need to be making radical cuts in greenhouse gas emissions now, before rises in global temperatures of two or three degrees centigrade become probable.

"The Chinese government has balked at the thought of meaningful targets or independent verification of its emissions.

"The US government has tried to push other governments into measures it is unlikely to get through the current US Senate."

The UN meeting was billed as the deadline for hammering out a successor to the Kyoto protocol, with the aim of preventing catastrophic climate change.

Climate scientists are convinced we must stop growth in greenhouse gases and start making cuts.

To have a chance of keeping global warming under the dangerous 2C mark, reductions of 25 to 40 per cent relative to 1990 levels are needed, rising to 80 per cent to 90 per cent by 2050.

Remote

"I think it was a group failure," said Mr Clark, who spent a day at the summit.

"The conference was quite remote from people whose lives will be affected and it was very difficult for people to follow what was going on."

He said that climate change negotiations would continue.

"But people need to take a step back because it is not sufficient to make this deal legally binding because it does not commit to any targets," he added.

Mr Dawe, who is the Green Party's candidate for Tonbridge and Malling in the next general election, urged people to boycott goods and services from the most polluting countries like China and the US.

"The British Government paints itself 'green' on climate change," he said. "But the UK record is poor on energy efficiency, so much so that 36,700 people died of the cold in the UK last winter.

"It is also poor on renewable energy, where only Macedonia in Europe generates less than the UK from renewable sources."

The Copenhagen Accord has seen global leaders accept that global temperature rises must be kept under 2C. It promises to give poorer nations up to $30 billion to cope with climate change.

It sets a goal of $100bn a year for poorer nations by 2020 for adapting to global warming and clean technology. It also preserves Kyoto protocol, which places binding responsibility on rich nations.

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Cook helps you beat the crunch



TOP TIPS: Home economist Beverley Piper

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A COOKERY writer has published a book proving you can be a domestic goddess without breaking the bank.

Beverley Piper's Credit Crunch Entertaining gives 80 recipes and 21 menus, showing people how they can eat well when every penny counts.

The 60-year-old, who lives near Ashford, says it's all about going back to basics.

"People should start using home-grown vegetables and herbs and using leftovers," she said. "Society is ensconced with using big brand names, but if they use supermarket brands they'll find there's little difference.

"My book is about using basic ingredients and it shows you how to use leftovers.

"People can save a lot of money by freezing food," she said. "Everyone has their own views about what they should buy frozen, and of course it would be great to be able to just buy a big, fresh chicken, for example, but for families trying to save money during the credit crunch, this isn't always possible.

"Families can also buy cheaper cuts of meat which, if cooked properly, taste delicious."

Turkey

Mrs Piper said although her book gives tips on saving money, its focus is on good food.

"This isn't cooking on a budget, it's about showing people they can eat well without spending too much," she said. "It includes menus for dinner parties, but also recipes families can use."

Her tip to use up the abundance of turkey this Christmas is to pop it in a risotto. "You could even freeze the leftovers and use them over New Year," she added.

Home economist Mrs Piper has been writing cookery books for more than 30 years. In her new book, she has given time-keeping tips to ensure wannabe chefs avoid burning their food.

She said: "The menus have time plans, so if you're entertaining you have one less thing to worry about.

Nigella

But Mrs Piper, who has featured on radio and television with her food expertise, said despite the popularity of her new book, getting it published was harder than she thought.

"Unless you're a Jamie Oliver or Nigella Lawson it's very hard to get heard.

"I've had lots of books published, but this time I couldn't get a publisher. So I decided to do it myself with the help of my step-son.

"This book was a big project for me and I'm proud that it's now on sale."

Examples of her recipes include lamb tagine, baked white chocolate cheesecake and spiced rack of lamb.

• For a copy of the book, priced at £8.99 plus £1.80 postage and packaging, email Beverley.jarvis@jarvishomes.com. The book will be on sale at Waterstone's in the New Year.

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HS1 blamed for timetable misery

COMMUTERS voicing their frustration at longer journey times and crowded trains have blamed them on Kent's new rail timetable, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Operator Southeastern introduced its revised schedule last Sunday, to coincide with the launch of the domestic High Speed 1 service, promising more choice for passengers and a five per cent increase in capacity on mainline trains.

Yet while some are delighted with the shorter journey times to London offered by HS1, others are less than thrilled with the alterations forced upon their travel patterns.

KOS Media reader Terry Bonds, from Strood, posted his comments about the new timetable on our kentnews.co.uk website.

He wrote: "Rubbish – every train I've been on so far has been late. There is no point using the HS1 trains (at extra cost) as I would then have to use the Underground, which is not included on my season ticket.

'Pathetic'

"There are now only three trains from Cannon Street to Strood between 5pm and 7pm as far as I can see, and at useless times, so I'll have to get trains from London Bridge – and that, as we all know, means no seat.

"All in all, pathetic."

Another reader, David from Gillingham, was equally disappointed with the changes.

He wrote: "The new timetable is rubbish. I now get into work late and arrive home 45 minutes later. All the trains so far this week have been late and overcrowded."

The introduction of the new 140mph bullet trains has contributed to one of the biggest timetable shake-ups in more than 40 years, with more than 150 stops scheduled every day between 7-10am.

However, due to the increased cost of the HS1 service and the lack of choice for a London destination – it only stops at St Pancras – many commuters are still using the slower, mainline trains.

North Thanet Tory MP Roger Gale said it was unfair that they should be made to suffer for the benefit of high-speed passengers.

He said: "I have already received complaints from commuting constituents who, while paying in the region of £3,500 a year for season tickets, are now faced with the prospect of having to change their work and life balance for the worse in order to subsidise a high-speed service from which they gain no benefit.

"They now find that because of longer journey times on the Kent coast line – caused by more halts and fewer trains to the destinations they wish to reach – they are having to leave home earlier, wait for connections on cold, wet platforms and arrive later than before."

A Southeastern spokesman said the operator would be conducting a review of the timetable in the New Year, making changes where necessary and possible.

He added: "We are committed to providing the best possible service across all services – Metro, mainline and high-speed – but unfortunately on rare occasions these services will be subject to delays due to problems out of our control."



STARTERS: Lord Adonis, Gordon Brown and Dame Kelly Holmes at the services launch

KENT County Council is among the authorities calling for a new vision for high-speed rail in Europe.

A partnership of agencies from across the Continent met for the first time in Brussels this month to discuss how the new service could boost tourism throughout the EU and reduce harmful emissions from road and air traffic.

KCC deputy leader Cllr Alex King said: "The high-speed rail revolution is taking place all over Europe. A number of countries are already connected by these bright ribbons of steel, which means you can quickly travel from Kent to key locations in Europe.

"We want to open this up further and make sure the residents and businesses of Kent benefit from these improved connections, helping to promote tourism and open up new markets for trading.

"It will also help regenerate these areas."

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Oval 'home' fixture will be Kent's first outside the county

By GLENN PEARSON
SPORTS EDITOR

KENT cricket chiefs have taken the controversial decision of staging one of their allotted eight home Friends Provident Twenty20 games at Surrey's Brit Oval next summer.

Kent Spitfires' T20 clash with Essex Eagles will be played outside the county at the Brit Oval in Kennington, south London, on Friday, July 9, in a move the club hopes will generate more revenue.

It is a one-off experiment for next season as the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury undergoes an £8.2 million facelift, but is expected to be a controversial one as Kent hosts cricket outside the county for the first time in its history.

Four of the Spitfires' eight home T20 games will be played at Canterbury with two scheduled for Beckenham and just one at the Nevill Ground in Tunbridge Wells.

Acting chief executive Jamie Clifford said the club was using the initiative to ensure the county profits from hosting all eight T20 games in what is a short space of time.

"Whether you are a big business, a cricket club or a member of the community, people understand how difficult it is at the moment," he said. "We have to look at ways of maximizing revenue, and if people want a club that is successful on the pitch and stable off it financially, then we have to look at things like this."

The club's new membership package for next season allows full members to gain free access to T20 games for next season and the club will be issuing ticket details for non-members for the game at the Brit Oval in the New Year.

Mr Clifford said the capacity of the Brit Oval, which can hold 23,500, was a key factor in the decision and urged members and supporters to turn out in force for the game.

"People should come and watch us at what is an iconic venue," he said. "It's like having a final early in the season."



TOP ORDER: Skipper Rob Key

Twenty20 home fixtures 2010

- **Wednesday, June 9 – Sussex Sharks, Tunbridge Wells**
- Friday, June 11 – Middlesex Panthers, Canterbury
- **Sunday, June 20 – Somerset Sabres, Beckenham**
- Wednesday, June 23 – Surrey Brown Caps, Beckenham
- **Friday, July 2 – Hampshire Hawks, Canterbury**
- Sunday, July 4 – Gloucestershire Gladiators, Canterbury
- **Friday, July 9 – Essex Eagles, The Brit Oval**
- Sunday, July 11 – Glamorgan Dragons, Canterbury

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Protecting those in peril on the sea



By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk



TERRORISTS, drug-smugglers and thieves can all expect the same welcome when they arrive in Kentish waters – a visit from the county's very own police boat.

Launched 18 months ago with the traditional smashing of a bottle of champagne, Princess Alexandra III has gone on to play a pivotal role in several major operations and become the bane of a maritime criminal's life.

This year the converted RNLI vessel helped break up two major drug-smuggling gangs, resulting in prison sentences totalling almost 100 years for the 10 members convicted, with its presence on the water acting as a deterrent to other would-be felons.

Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes officially launched the 53-foot boat in May last year and has been pleased with the results.

She said: "Due to where we are in the country, the police obviously have to deal with lots of cross-border and cross-Channel crime.

Priority

"We work in collaboration with Essex and together we share the longest stretch of coastline in the country, so having a boat like this is a very high priority for us.

"It's a wonderful tool for the police and at £150,000 to refit is really good value for money, too. When council tax went up for 2007-08, we told everyone we would be spending the money on the boat and I think it's fantastic what has been achieved.

"We've seen some amazing results in terms of drug-smuggling and people-trafficking."

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Picture: STEVE KNIGHT



SERIOUS PLAYERS: Left, one of the police RIBS goes out to a ship, and far left, the Alexandra III in action, and below, at her champagne launch

radar and an AIS (Automated Information on Ships) system.

When not involved in major police operations, members of the four-strong crew use the technology to board vessels of 'interest', while maintaining a close relationship with Kent's coastal and river communities.

The boat is capable of carrying up to 16 officers, with each police division – including dog-handling and bomb disposal – having at least one officer trained to be on board.

Assets

Kent Police also has two smaller rigid inflatable boats (RIBS) that are quicker and used to transport armed officers for major operations when the need arises.

The RIBS were the only marine assets owned by the police before the purchase of Alexandra III, which is based at Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey.

Insp Geraint Jones said: "The boat has made a huge difference. It's enabled us to be far more effective in linking with our partner agencies like the UK Border Agency and ports. We look like a serious player now, whereas before it didn't look like we took marine policing very seriously at all."

Kent Police's marine division has come a long way since its officers first started using row boats to patrol the waters back in 1830.

By 1976 the force owned three boats – Marina and Alexandra I and II – but financial cutbacks meant that by the mid-1990s they had all been sold.

As well as being a vital asset in tackling water-based crime, Alexandra III has also helped save lives. During the Climate Camp protests at Kingsnorth power station in summer 2008, demonstrators used flimsy rafts and makeshift life jackets to spread their anti-coal message from the water.

Insp Jones said: "There were some 30 or 40 home-made rafts with some very enthusiastic people on board, and we had to take 126 people out of the water. Some of the rafts had sunk and one man had even tied two one-litre bottles around his waist.

"A lot of people were in real danger of dying, so it was important we were there."

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams – who joined the force in April – lists the boat among his portfolio of responsibilities and is in no doubt as to its effectiveness.

He said: "Criminals don't know any boundaries, so if we couldn't do things on the water there would be a big gap for policing in Kent.

"We help ensure sites are safe, we protect property and we tackle problems such as drug-smuggling and people-trafficking.

"The men on board have been doing this for a long time and know their way around the waters. They're taking neighbourhood policing out into the estuary."

Teen jailed for robberies

A 19-YEAR-OLD man from Gillingham has been jailed for 40 months for two robberies – one in Gillingham and one in Whitstable.

Leon Stephen Wheddon of Davenport Avenue, initially denied carrying out a robbery in Great Lines, Gillingham, on August 14, and one in Whitstable on June 30.

But he later pleaded guilty to both offences and was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court.

Wheddon carried out the Gillingham robbery when he approached a man and told him to empty his pockets.

The victim, a 20-year-old man, only had 30p on him and an open packet of cigarettes, which he handed over to Wheddon.

Det Con Julie McNeil said: "Wheddon has been a persistent offender and is a danger to the community. Wheddon did not carry a weapon but used threats against his victims to suggest that he did."

Wheddon also pleaded guilty to a robbery in Whitstable, where he again threatened a man, this time a 16-year-old, forcing the victim to take £200 out of his bank account and hand it over.



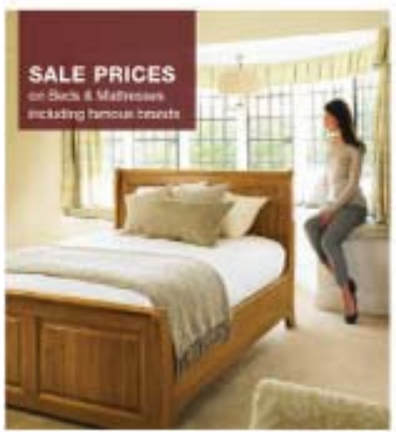
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Smoke alarm leads to rescue

NEIGHBOURS saved a 98-year-old from a blaze at his Blean home.

The man was taking a nap in his Yew Tree Farm home when a fire broke out in his porch and hallway just before 2.30pm, on Sunday, December 20.

His smoke alarm went off, but the man was in a deep sleep and did not hear it. Luckily, his neighbour heard the alarm, phoned 999 and rescued the man. Both got out safely.

Two fire crews from Canterbury arrived shortly afterwards.

Crew manager Paul Wood said: "We were met with an elderly man suffering the effects of shock and smoke inhalation who was being cared for by his neighbours. We discovered what happened and we think the elderly man owes his life to that smoke alarm."

The pensioner was taken to hospital by ambulance as a precautionary measure. The fire is thought to have started accidentally.

Right to return

SHOPPERS are being advised to know their rights before returning unwanted or faulty Christmas gifts this week.

Kent County Council's trading standards team is warning consumers to keep hold of receipts and take back faulty goods as soon as possible to ensure they remain within the "reasonable amount of time" guidelines for stores.

If a single item costing more than £100 is faulty and purchased using a credit card, customers can also contact the credit card company as they are equally liable and should be able to help.

Visit www.consumerdirect.gov.uk for more information, or call 08454 04 05 06.

O'Grady's plea

COMEDIAN Paul O'Grady is backing a campaign asking people to donate their unwanted Christmas presents to Save the Children.

It is estimated the cost of this year's unwanted novelty Christmas items and other presents will reach £1.3 billion.

TV presenter O'Grady, who lives in Aldington, said: "Never assume that because you don't want it nobody else will. If you donate your unwanted gifts to charity, they could be sold to raise money and save the lives of children."

Sara Payne backs mum's justice fight

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE mother of murdered schoolgirl Sarah Payne has offered her support to the family of a former Kent footballer kicked half to death in Crete.

Robbie Hughes was on the verge of signing for Ryman Premier Division side Bromley FC when, while on holiday in June last year, he was attacked with such brutality that his skull caved in.

His mother Maggie has fought for justice over her son's attackers ever since, and earlier this month met Sara Payne – the national victims' champion – to discuss the incident that has left the 28-year-old with memory loss, obsessive compulsive disorder and prone to fits.



BRUTAL ATTACK: Robbie Hughes with his mother Maggie after his terrible ordeal in Crete

Murder

The two also discussed ways to help prevent similar attacks on holidaymakers in the future.

Mrs Hughes said: "Sara offered me a private meeting, which was brilliant because she's an idol of mine.

"She's been in similar circumstances to my own and is obviously now our voice for the future, to tell the Government that there's a problem with the legal system in places like Crete. I don't want to wreck anyone's holiday but people need to be aware that they might be the next to be attacked or to suffer a horrible accident, and it's important they know what to do and who to call if they are."

Ms Payne's eight-year-old daughter Sarah went missing from a cornfield near her grandparents' home in Kingston Gorse, West Sussex, on July 1, 2000.

Just over two weeks later her body was found dumped in a field some 15 miles away.

Paedophile Roy Whiting was later found guilty of the youngster's murder and is currently serving life in prison.

Since the tragedy Ms Payne has campaigned for parents to be allowed to find out if they live near registered sex offenders, and earlier this year was appointed victims' champion by Justice Secretary Jack Straw.

Her discussion with Mrs Hughes came just days after the footballer's mum held a similar meeting for other victims of crime opposite the House of Commons, which was attended by MPs and representatives from the British Embassy.

Mrs Hughes said: "It was a four-hour meeting, everyone was given the time to say their piece and we all left happy that we had been properly listened to, because the worst thing you can hear is that nobody can help you.

"We all agreed that new procedures need to be in place to protect people abroad."

Once a member of Crystal Palace's youth academy, Robbie has made a miraculous recovery, despite being given just 48 hours to live following the attack, and is now able to play football again despite his disabilities.

Six British men were arrested following the incident, but released without charge due to a loophole in Greek law that says such crimes must be reported within two days.

Mrs Hughes said: "Robbie can hold a conversation with you now, but if something distracts him, he's off somewhere else. There's still a long way to go."

Earlier this month six British men – five from Surrey and one from Sussex – were arrested under extradition powers in connection with the attack. They were remanded in custody.



New credit union to tackle loan sharks is delayed by red tape

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

BUREAUCRACY has delayed the launch of a countywide credit union that would have provided a safer alternative to loan sharks this Christmas.

Kent Savers has been ready to begin trading since the end of October, but is being held up by the industry regulator the Financial Services Authority (FSA), which is yet to sign off the final paperwork.

Established by Kent County Council, the union – which will be non-profit making and run by a voluntary board of directors – will offer a fixed interest rate of 27 per cent to steer residents away from exorbitant offers elsewhere.

Legal

Cabinet member for regeneration and economic development Cllr Kevin Lynes told KOS Media he was disappointed by the delay.

He said: "Everything is sorted. The governance, the money, the staff and the premises are all in place and the website is up and running. What we are waiting for – and it drives me mad – is the FSA.

"They have to rubber-stamp the business plan and application for the union to be legal, but in the current economic climate they are being 2,000 per cent cautious about everything.

"Christmas is one of the times when people are most at risk of being taken advantage of by loan sharks, and it's a real shame we're not yet trading because we could have saved a lot of people a lot of heartache this year."

Kent Savers will offer loans of between £500 and £5,000 and will be targeted at residents who cannot guarantee earnings or have no equity.

It will also provide a bill payment service and flexible and secure saving plans.

Interim chief officer Adrian Davies said he hoped the union would be up and running by the end of the week beginning January 4.

He added: "Given the state of the economy, everyone expects the FSA to regulate a lot more carefully, but they've been given no clear guidelines by the Government and apparently no extra staff either, and it's a bit of a pain to be honest.

"We've read the stories and listened to the debates in Parliament about people having no alternative to high-cost credit and unscrupulous loan sharks, well there is an alternative, but we haven't yet been allowed to offer it."

An FSA spokeswoman said she was unable to comment on specific cases.

When Kent Savers is eventually launched, residents will be able to access it at one of the county's seven Gateways – in Ashford, Dover, Maidstone, Tenterden, Margate, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

They can also visit www.kentsavers.co.uk.



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WHAT do you think £460 billion would look like, stacked up in crisp bundles of notes?

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The family home, with its high-maintenance upkeep and time-consuming garden, often becomes a burden to swinging sixties (and seventies), who would far rather be spending their time travelling, playing sport and pursuing hobbies.

Those who have already made the lifeshift, downsizing to a purpose-built retirement property, appreciate the freedom, lower running costs, friendship and security it brings.

There are more people in Britain drawing a state pension than there are under 16s; a major shift in the country's demographics.

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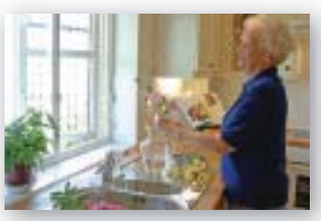
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HILLREED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Tributes paid to a bright, loving teen

THE family of a young woman who died when her car careered from the Thanet Way have paid tribute her.

Laura Lyddon, a 19-year-old from Bishopstone Lane, Beltinge, near Herne Bay, was killed when the car she was driving came off the London-bound A299 near St Nicholas at Wade on Saturday, December 12.

Her silver Ford Fiesta hit a tree at 11.15am and Miss Lyddon was pronounced dead at the scene. Her 21-year-old male passenger was taken to the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate for treatment.

The former Barton Court Grammar School pupil lived with her parents Debbie and Martin and her sister Emma, have described Laura as loving, caring and bright.

She was working as a personal assistant at the time of her death but wanted to join the police force. Her plan was to follow in the footsteps of her father, who was a police detective.

Kent's serious collision investigation unit was brought in after the crash. An inquest into Miss Lyddon's death was opened and adjourned last week.

The police are appealing for witnesses to the crash. Anyone with information can call 01622 798 538.

Book in to help

KENT Libraries and Archives is looking for volunteers to help with its work.

Currently the Time2Give programme has vacancies for 'computer buddies', volunteers to deliver books, and Baby Rhyme Time hosts to help with song and nursery rhyme sessions.

Ask at your local library for more information, call 01622 696528, or alternatively email libraryvolunteers@kent.gov.uk.

Lighting up their lives

Charity works to help get homeless people off the streets

By **JENNY ARMSTRONG**
jenny.armstrong@kosmedia.co.uk

HOMELESS teenager Tommy has told his story to try and help raise funds for a charity which assists 1,600 people a year.

Tommy, 17, is one of the people Porchlight has helped in the run-up to Christmas. He has been living in their supported accommodation in Canterbury for two months.

Tommy said: "Six months ago I was living with my mum in Dover. My behaviour started to go downhill. I did loads of silly things like getting involved with the wrong crowd, drinking and taking drugs.

"I got in so much trouble with the police that I wasn't allowed in Dover anymore.

"Loads of people wanted to fight me because of the trouble I'd caused. On one occasion around 30 people came to my house armed with bats. Luckily I wasn't in. My mum was really scared and she didn't want me to live with her anymore."

After a short stint staying with family in Canterbury, who Tommy also fell out with, he spent four months sleeping rough in tents, on benches and at train stations in the city.

He said: "It's really cold and there is nowhere to go. I had no money so I couldn't eat. It was horrible.

"I was forced to scrounge from my mates. Because of this I eventually lost all my friends. I felt like committing suicide."

But after Tommy's mum and cousin told him about Porchlight he went to the charity, was interviewed and was able to move in to its young persons' accommodation in the north of Canterbury.



NEW HOPE: Thanks to Porchlight, Tommy is now able to start turning his life around

Now he is studying stable management at Canterbury stables, which teaches people with disabilities and learning difficulties to ride.

The youngster is also doing an English and maths course, looking for a job and enjoying Porchlight's activities, which include horse riding, football training, and visits to the gym.

He would like to be a professional footballer but, in case that does not work out, he has applied to train as a mechanic.

And now the teenager is getting back on track he is back in contact with his mum.

Tommy said: "I talk to most of my family again now. I told my mum when I left that one day I would prove her wrong and show her that I could do something with my life.

"When I spoke to her the other week she started to cry. She is so pleased I have managed to turn things around."

While he is staying with the charity, Tommy gets help sorting out the problems which made him homeless in the first place.

He has meetings twice a week to talk to someone about his how he can overcome specific problems.

For some people these can include getting benefits, life skills, physical and mental health issues, deciding where to live, or helping with application forms for work or study.

Homeless people like Tommy also get to participate in activities which bring them back into society, build their confidence and give them skills, or even qualifications.

Tommy said that without Porchlight he would still be on the streets: "It is the most horrible experience I have ever had in my life.

"I would tell anyone else to keep their nose clean, stay out of trouble and don't get in with the wrong crowd. You never want to be in the situation I was in."

Last year 204 people were referred to its young persons' supported accommodation – 17 per cent more than the previous year.

To find out more about Porchlight's work visit www.porchlight.org.uk. To make a donation send a cheque payable to 'Porchlight' to 2nd Floor Watling Chambers, 18-19 Watling Street, Canterbury CT1 2AU.

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Christmas shoppers show no signs of slowing down

THE recession has failed to put the brakes on the Christmas shopping frenzy as retailers record a rise in sales over the festive season, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that in November, 2009, there was a three per cent rise seen in sales, compared with the same time last year, with this increasing rapidly through December.

And shop owners in Kent's high streets and shopping centres are rubbing their hands with glee as people continue to spend.

Even last weekend's treacherous weather failed to stop people venturing out to the shops, with Bluewater seeing more than 250,000 people come through its doors.

General manager Andrew Parkinson said he expected over 500,000 shoppers to visit during the final four days of Christmas shopping.

The centre has seen jewellery and electrical sales go up by 15 per cent since last year and the second half of November saw many retailers reaching record sales figures.

The John Lewis store at Bluewater has also had record sales, beating last year by 22.5 per cent. David Barford, director of selling operations at the store, said: "We are delighted with the performance of our Bluewater branch."

But financial experts have warned that by spending more at Christmas, people are putting themselves under more financial pressure and succumbing to the temptations of loans.

And in many cases, they are turning to doorstep loans. which come with a higher interest rate than standard ones.

In some instances, borrowers could end up paying an annual percentage rate (APR) of around 200 per cent, meaning a £300 loan could end up costing them around £600.

Citizens Advice Bureaux across the county are advising people to contact their local credit unions rather than go for the quick but expensive options.

A spokesperson from the Association of British Credit Unions said in most cases, by using credit unions, people will have to pay no more than one per cent a month, an APR of just over 12 per cent. For information go to your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

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WIN the perfect winter warmer

FEW OF us need an excuse to tuck into a plate of bangers and mash and this competition is a great reason to get creative in the kitchen.

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THE ENGLISH PROVENDER Co

For a winter warmer, try the recipe for spicy sausage and bean cassoulet below. It feeds four and takes an hour to cook, giving you time to relax while the aroma fills the house.

To get you in the mood, we have 10 fantastic non-stick Panillo ® Casseroles to give away, along with a jar of delicious English Provender Organic Sweet Tomato and Chilli Chutney.

These clever casserole dishes include a glass lid for stovetop use and a solid lid for the oven – which when used together make a handy skillet pan. Each gift is worth £70.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to English Provender Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is January 15, 2010.

Question: What colour of onion makes a jar of Very Lazy Caramelised onions?

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.





Sausage and bean cassoulet

Serves four
450g spicy pork sausages
50g uncooked chorizo sausages, sliced
1 tsp oil
2 tsp Very Lazy Garlic
300ml beef stock
410g can butter beans, rinsed and drained
410g can flageolet beans, rinsed and drained
3 tbsp English Provender Organic Sweet Tomato and Chilli Chutney
1 tsp Very Lazy Red Chillies

Heat the oven to Gas Mark 3, 170°C, 325°F.

In a large heatproof casserole dish, heat the oil and cook the chorizo for 3-4 minutes. Add the pork sausages, and brown in the hot pan. Add all the remaining ingredients and mix well.

Cover the casserole dish and cook in a preheated oven for around one hour, or until the sausages are cooked through.

Serve with green vegetables, mashed potato or crusty bread.

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Campaigners say apathy is keeping community quiet

'City needs to show pride in being gay'

By JENNY ARMSTRONG
jenny.armstrong@kosmedia.co.uk

THE imminent closure of a gay bar has led to members of Canterbury Pride to renew criticism that the city is not gay enough.

CO2, a bar on the corner of King Street and St Alphege Lane, will shut down as soon as the owners can sell the lease.

The bar has been plagued with planning objections and complaints from an association of local homeowners since before it opened, and one of the bar's owners blames this and a lack of community support for the bar's closure.

Darren Bister, co-owner of the pub, said: "We are closing because it is just not very successful at the moment. It is a waste of time, a waste of our work and a waste of money.

"We have not had the support from the community that we thought we would get so it is time to shut the doors. We have had enough.

"Too much damage has been done here; it is a lost cause really. We will probably not be opening a bar in Canterbury again, although we will be keeping our bars in other towns."



GAR BAY: The owners of CO2 say the venture has been a waste of time

Gay rights group Pride in Canterbury blamed council apathy for the venue's closure.

Andrew Brettel, speaking for the group, said: "Until the council sends out a clear message that it is okay for the gay community to be out and proud in the city, businesses and ventures that strive to serve and build up that community will find it difficult to succeed.

"The city's many homophobes must think Christmas has already arrived."

But Mr Bister does not blame the council and does not think the venue being gay was a factor. He said: "Anything here would get complaints no matter what venue it is. The locals don't want anything here full stop.

"I am a bit gutted, but there you go. We are the only gay bar, but people don't want us here, including the gay community who are not supporting us at all.

"We have put a lot of hard work into it and a lot of money making a place where people can feel comfortable and be themselves. Sod 'em!"

A council spokesman said: "While it is sad when any business closes, as the local licensing authority we have to be strictly impartial and cannot favour either the business or local residents. We have offered to work with the owners of CO2 to try and find them alternative premises within the city."

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Witnesses sought to stabbing attack

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after two men were stabbed in Chatham.

The attack took place in Upper Luton Road in the early hours of Sunday, December 20. Three people were arrested and questioned. The victims were treated at Medway Maritime Hospital and are both were in a stable condition after surgery.

"We would like to hear from anyone who may have seen something which helps our inquiries," said Det Insp Mark Noble.

Call Kent Police on 01634 792177 or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Lorry drivers owe £1.5m in illegal immigrant fines

TRUCK drivers are not being punished enough for smuggling illegal immigrants from Calais, ***writes Ed Hill.***

That is the conclusion of an inspection into the work carried out by the United Kingdom Borders Agency (UKBA).

The report was published by the agency's independent inspector John Vine. He found that £1.5 million of fines were still to be collected by the agency from lorry companies whose vehicles had been found to be carrying illegal immigrants.

Under the law, introduced in 2000, haulage companies can be fined up to £4,000 and if they fail to pay they can have the vehicle impounded.

However, the report found almost no companies or drivers had been added to the agency's vehicle seizure list since September last year.

In his report Mr Vine said: "We saw little effective leadership or accountability for the civil penalty process within the UKBA."

The inspectors blamed the lack of resources and poor management that affectively allowed lorry companies to ignore the law.

The number of stowaways found in trucks in France heading to UK ports like Dover, has massively increased over the last three years. In 2007 4,241 were found by UKBA staff, this had risen to 8,058 by September, 2009.

The report said that although officers on the ground in Calais tried to do their best to carry out searches, they lacked the equipment and facilities to do the job.

Mr Vine said: "We found there was a shortage of basic equipment available to staff, including torches, cameras and bolt-cutters. The accommodation at Calais was also very limited – in terms of both the space and facilities available for staff and customers."



Picture: IMAGES INTERNATIONAL LTD

PROBLEM: Illegal immigrants are being smuggled into the UK in lorries

If lorry drivers were caught with illegal immigrants in their trucks the penalty fine system was not acting as a deterrent.

A large backlog of cases had built up, meaning the agency would resort to sending out warning letters and not issue fines because of the lack of staff.

Mr Vine said more vehicles should be impounded by the UKBA because in most cases the fine was paid within two days.

He concluded: "We found no evidence to show that quality reviews were undertaken in relation to the civil penalty scheme, either to identify opportunities for improvement or to ensure consistent application of the scheme."

Ashford MP and Conservative spokesman on immigration, Damian Green, said the report was another example of the chaos in the immigration system.

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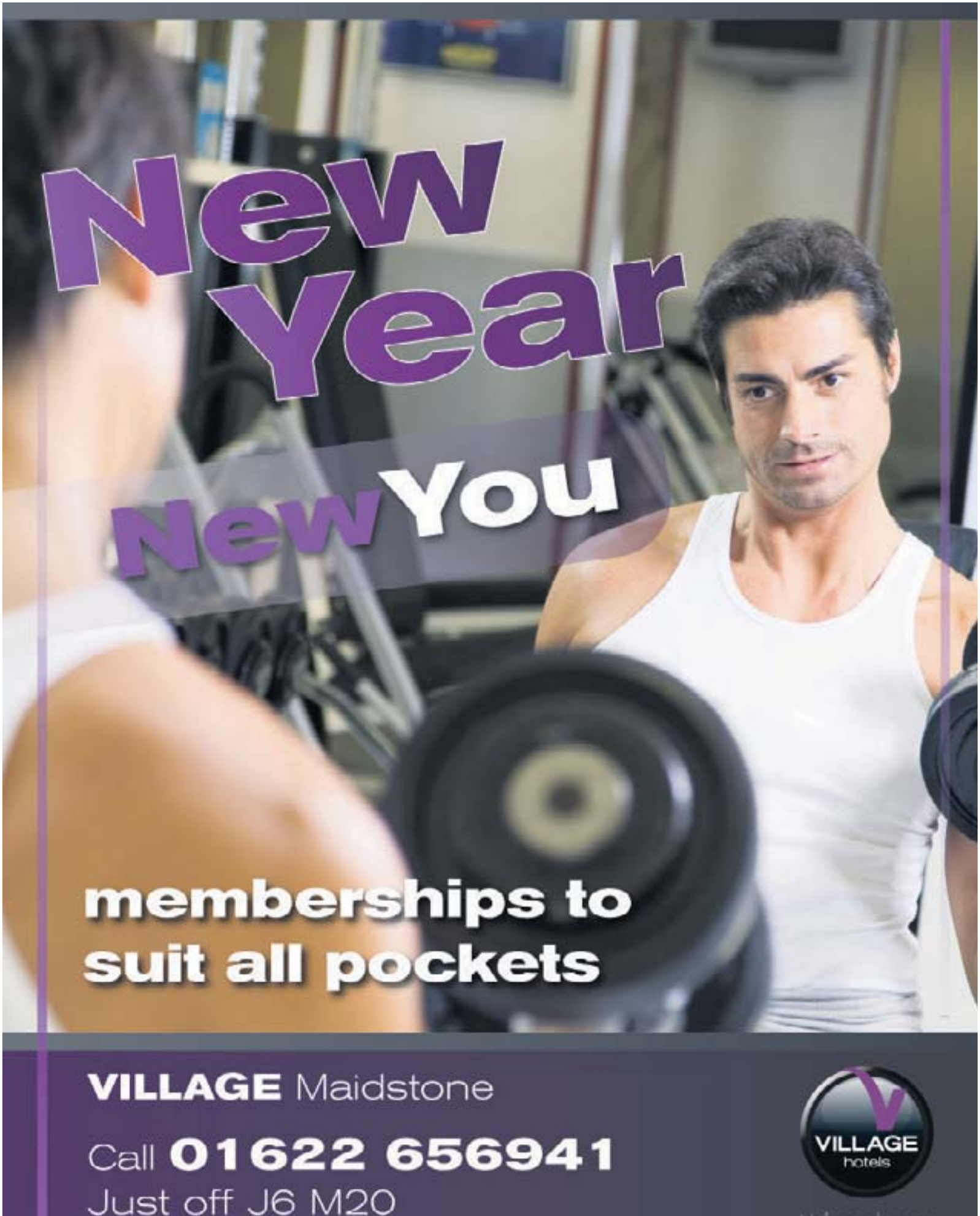
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Violent robber gets three-year sentence

By **MATHEW BEECH**

mathew.beech@kosmedia.co.uk

A KNIFE-wielding man has been sentenced to three years in prison for attempted robbery.

Robert Roache, of no fixed address, was arrested on September 8 following the attack in Institute Road, Chatham.

The 40-year-old approached a 31-year-old man and demanded cigarettes from him, before turning violent and threatening his victim when he had been refused.

The victim, who was unhurt, went to a friend's house to call the police.

Once officers arrived, Roache was seen dropping a knife at the scene, before becoming aggressive and violent towards the police. While being arrested, he spat at two of the officers.

Roache was charged with attempted robbery, two incidents of assaulting a police officer, two incidents of using threatening and abusive behaviour, indecent exposure and possession of an offensive weapon.



AGGRESSIVE: 40-year-old Robert Roache

Det Insp Ann Lisseman said: "We're pleased with the sentence and hope that it acts as a deterrent to others who think about carrying out acts of violence."

Joining forces for better council housing

BETTER council housing could be on the way for tenants if a pioneering plan is approved.

The idea is for a project allowing Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet councils to manage council housing across the area as one.

This should cut costs which come with duplicating services, which would then be re-invested elsewhere in the area's council housing budget.

If proposals published earlier this month are approved, each council's tenants will be able to have a say in setting up a not-for-profit housing company to be owned by the councils.

This is the first time four councils have combined their housing services in such a way, and it is estimated it could save £1.5 million over five years.

A final decision will be made in the New Year.



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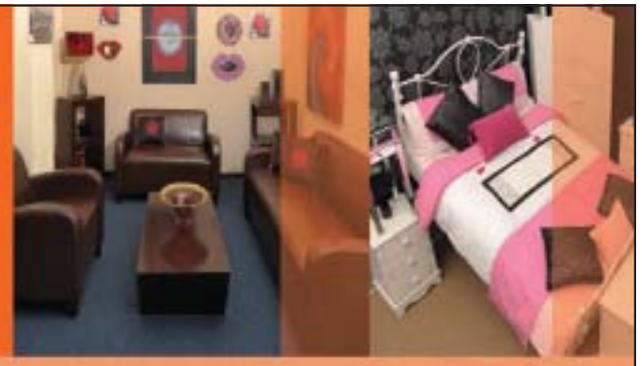
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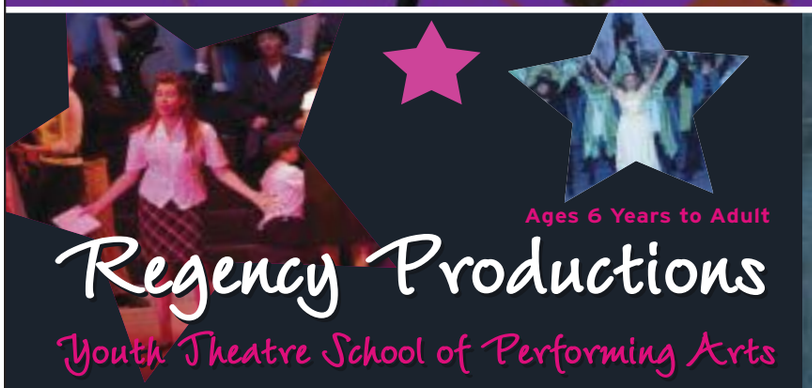
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Man fined for his dog's mess

MAGISTRATES have ordered a man to pay more than £500 after he refused to pick up his dog's mess in a children's play area.

James Davis from Northfleet was found guilty at Dartford Magistrates Court of not cleaning up after his dog, after a PCSO caught him walking away from his dog's mess in a play area.

Magistrates ordered Davis to pay a £350 fine, £150 court costs and £15 victim surcharge.

The court heard how on August 28 a Police Community Support Officer saw Davis go into a children's play area in Northfleet with his dogs.

He allowed his dog to go to the toilet and then failed to clear it up. He was asked by the PCSO to pick up the fouling and he responded "why should I?"

Gravesham Borough Council's Cllr John Cubitt said: "It is a dog owner's responsibility to pick up after their pet."

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Are you bemused every time someone mentions Twitter? Do you get annoyed every time you hear it mentioned on the TV and radio? JOHN YOUNG is a television reporter and presenter who's just returned to BBC South East Today after a year training new journalists. He's 43, and until a few months ago couldn't make head or tail of it either. But now he's getting stuck in – and he would love you to join him

TWITTER. It's such a ridiculous word.

It sounds like a cheap toy you might buy for a new born nephew as an emergency Christmas present. But after a few weeks cautiously "tweeting" myself, this internet-based activity has helped me to recommend a plumber, avoid a traffic jam, keep dry on a wet day and let off steam last time my train was late into London.

It's also helped me feel more in touch with the world around me.

So how do you tweet? First, you need to be online, or have the internet on your phone. Then you open an account, enter a few details about yourself.

And next, once in a while, you just type a little message to the world about… whatever you want.

Let's stop there, I used to think. Why on earth would I want to type a little message to the world? Who cares if I've just had a disappointing sandwich for my lunch? The answer, of course, is that nobody cares much. But this is Twitter's problem. Word's got around that it's about egocentric people telling each other what they had for lunch.

It isn't. I now think Twitter is a remarkably powerful tool for contributing to the society we all live in. And if that sounds like a turn off – it can be fun, too.

Here's how I've been explaining it to new journalists I've been training.

You know what it's like when you're on a train and you overhear an interesting bit of chat? Someone mentioning something they've seen or heard on tv, perhaps, that sounds up your street? Or perhaps someone furious about a council blunder that you think may have happened to you, too? Twitter is like being on a train with as many carriages as you can imagine, all full of people chatting away.

Some of it's boring chat. Some of it you don't understand a word of. But some of it is really useful, conversations you can join, people you can then contact



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It's good to talk



ALL TALK: John Young has found Twitter is a new way to chat

and find out more from. People can respond to what you're saying – my exasperated tweet about my train being late caught the eye of a campaigner. But you're in control – you join in the chat as much or as little as you want.

So when someone wrote that they needed a plumber, I tweeted back some details of one I'd used. South East Today are one of many news organisations that tweets its headlines to help you decide what to watch that night.

Our weather presenters, Kaddy, Kaye and Nazaneen, tweet the weather forecast, too – handy if you can't get to the telly.

Witty types tweet amusing gags that might put a smile on your face. Groups of tweeters gather to debate what's being debated on the BBC's Question Time. Sarah Brown, the Prime Minister's wife, tweets about the campaigns she supports. It gets interesting.

Councillors tweet to ask who needs their help. People living in Cumbria recently tweeted in their thousands about the problems they faced as the floodwater poured in. It's a fair bet it was on Twitter before it was on the news.

It takes time to get the hang of. Like learning German, you need to take it slowly at first. The Twitter website isn't as good as it might be at explaining how it all works. There are plenty of guides online that explain it better.

But whether you're a gossip or a campaigner, wanting to help other people, or just a bit curious about other people – I'd recommend giving it a try. And if you do, please send me a tweet – and I'll tweet you a welcome back.

- ***Start tweeting by going to twitter.com.***
- ***You can tweet John Young by 'following' him – just search eastsussexeye.***
- ***You can 'follow' the South East Today team by following bbcsoutheast.***

Watch what you eat

DRIED fruit is a popular treat, but those with a sensitivity to sulphur dioxide should be wary.

Kent Trading Standards is advising consumers with that condition to take care when eating dried fruit as sulphur dioxide is often used to preserve it.

In recent tests some samples did not correctly list the presence of the substance, which can trigger an allergic response in those sensitive to it. It can also be a problem to asthmatics.

Sulphur dioxide is often used to preserve dried fruit such as apricots, prunes and dates, as well as other food and drink products.

Manufacturers are required to label products containing it with either the words sulphur dioxide or sulphites. However, some of the products used the chemical symbol SO2, which consumers may not be familiar with.

Richard Strawson, area manager for Kent County Council's Kent Trading Standards said: "No-one wants to be ill at Christmas, so we're advising people to check labels before they buy food, take extra care if they suffer from allergies and if in doubt, avoid it.

"Kent Trading Standards is working with manufacturers to make sure they label their products correctly so consumers know exactly what they're buying."

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Keep your home safe

SOUTH East Water is urging customers to think about giving homes their own special Christmas wrapping.

Insulating pipes against spells of cold weather can help prevent bursts, which can cause misery if gallons of water pour through ceilings and damage buildings and furniture.

Steve Andrews, head of operations support at South East Water, said: "As we head towards Christmas and into the winter, we will start to experience more cold snaps.

"That can mean more bursts on our own mains and pipes, but our customers' pipes will be at risk too. A few simple precautions can help prevent the misery caused by burst pipes in the home."

South East Water's top tips to beat the winter blues are:

- Lag outside pipes with insulating material.
- Ensure pipes, cisterns and tanks in unheated areas such as lofts are lagged.
- Repair dripping taps.
- If you go away, leave the heating on low or drain down the system.
- Check loft insulation is in good condition.
- Leave loft doors open to allow warm air to circulate.
- Check your internal stopcock will turn off in an emergency.
- If a pipe bursts, turn off the water and central heating.
- Keep the number of a reliable plumber to hand.
- Make sure you have adequate insurance. You can insure your home against plumbing and drainage emergencies such as burst pipes.

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What size eau de toilette are we giving away in the goodie bags?

Send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to: So Fragrance Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is January 15, 2010. So...? Fragrances are available at www.sofragrance.com

No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Important Christmas Waste Collection Information

Visit www.thanet.gov.uk/waste or call 01843 577115 for more details.

thanet district council

Date of your usual collection:	Homes on the WHEELED BIN service	Homes on the BLACK SACK service
Monday 21 Dec	BLACK BIN ONLY Blue lidded bins won't be collected	NO CHANGE Collection as normal
Tuesday 22 Dec	BLACK BIN ONLY Blue lidded bins won't be collected	NO CHANGE Collection as normal
Wednesday 23 Dec	BLACK BIN ONLY Blue lidded bins won't be collected	NO CHANGE Collection as normal
Thursday 24 Dec	BLACK BIN ONLY Blue lidded bins won't be collected	NO CHANGE Collection as normal
Friday 25 Dec (Christmas Day)	NO COLLECTION Your black bin will be collected on Tuesday 29 December	NO COLLECTION Your black sacks will be collected on Tuesday 29 December
Monday 28 Dec	NO COLLECTION	NO COLLECTION
Tuesday 29 Dec	NO COLLECTION (Except for homes due to have their WHEELED BIN collected on Christmas Day)	NO COLLECTION (Except for homes due to have their BLACK SACKS collected on Christmas Day)
Wednesday 30 Dec	NO COLLECTION	NO COLLECTION
Thursday 31 Dec	NO COLLECTION	NO COLLECTION
Friday 1 Jan (New Year's Day)	NO COLLECTION	NO COLLECTION
Monday 4 Jan	BLACK BIN ONLY Blue lidded bins won't be collected	NO CHANGE Collection as normal
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Friday 8 Jan	BLACK BIN ONLY Blue lidded bins won't be collected	NO CHANGE Collection as normal

Important
We are NOT collecting your blue liddled wheeled bins and recycling over the Christmas period.

Want to recycle this Christmas?
The Kent County Council waste and recycling sites at Manston Road, Margate and Ramsgate Road, Richborough are open Monday to Saturday from 8am until 4.30pm and on Sunday from 9am until 4pm.

These recycling sites are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Don't forget!
You can also take your glass bottles, paper and tin cans to one of the many recycling banks in Thanet.

For a list of recycling sites visit www.thanet.gov.uk/recycling.

Please put your rubbish out at the front boundary of your property by 6am on your collection day.

Normal service resumes from Monday 11 January 2010.

Jeff Barker



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Saturday 2nd January

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The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 9th January

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The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 9th January

Trilogy

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 16th January

The Fling

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 16th January

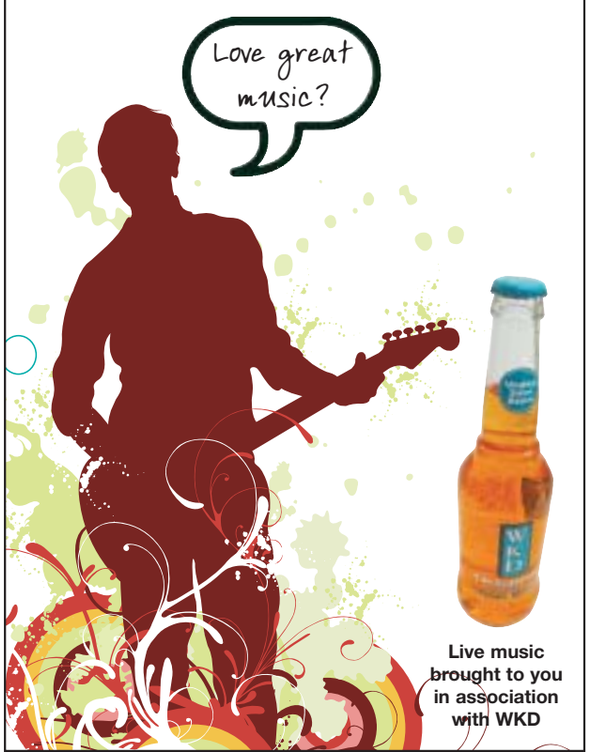
Wheres My Thing

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Saturday 23rd January

Jeb

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Gabrielle dreams of Olympics net gain


TENNIS HOPE: Gabrielle Paul

By **ANNA WHITE**
anna.white@kosmedia.co.uk

A GIRL from Maidstone is hoping her Christmas wish of a sponsorship deal to help her reach the London Olympics will soon come true.

Invicta Grammar School pupil Gabrielle Paul, 13, dreams of one day becoming a tennis star and playing at Wimbledon.

But, the teenager's greatest hope is to represent her country and home town at the 2012 Olympic Games.

To help achieve her goal, the youngster has signed up to Maidstone's Dream – a council-run initiative, backed by our sister paper Yourmaidstone, which aims to partner budding athletes with business sponsors.

The talented player has already had an insight of what is expected to reach the highest level after playing Venus Williams and Andy Roddick at the Tower of London.

Gabrielle said: "Venus was really nice, but my proudest moment has been hitting with Naomi Cavaday – a British top-10 player – and being able to keep up with her pace."

The year eight pupil, who plays at Bearsted Tennis Club, also receives top tips from her fitness trainer, former Olympic athlete Steve Green.

Mr Green has worked with the likes of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, and Gabrielle is hoping he can work the same wonders with her tennis career.

She began playing at the age of six and her family are great fans of the game.

Her commitment to training four times week paid off on the court after she reached competition finals and this year won the Maidenhead Open under 14 tournament.

Gabrielle said: "I hope to train hard so that I can represent Great Britain in the Olympics. I was born and brought up in Maidstone, that's why I'd love to represent Maidstone and Great Britain at the Olympics."

Gabrielle receives sponsorship which covers less than half her expenses, and that is due to finish at the end of this year.

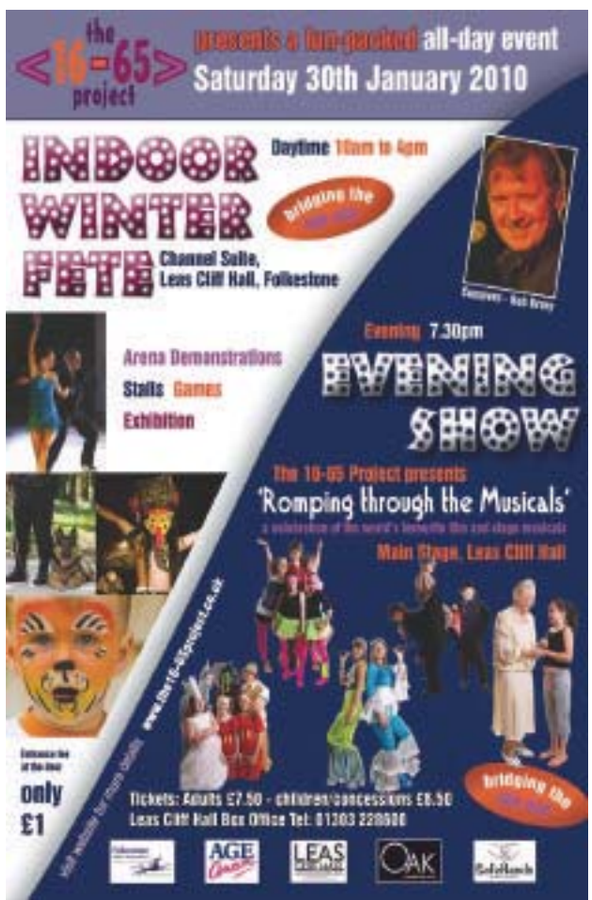
"Any money would be brilliant, but £3,000 to replace the current sponsorship would be fantastic," she said.

"Sponsorship would mean my coach could come and see me play away from Kent, I would be able to get new racquets and even go to tournaments across the world."

To view Gabrielle's profile, and information about other athletes from Maidstone, visit www.maidstonesdream.co.uk. Any business or athlete wishing to register can call Karen Smith on 01622 602759 or email maidstonesdream@maidstone.gov.uk.



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Don't kill garden birds with leftover kindness

TURKEY fat is extremely dangerous and should not be fed to garden birds, ***writes Mathew Beech.***

That is the warning the RSPB is issuing to bird-lovers who may unwittingly be killing their garden visitors with kindness.

RSPB adviser Kirsi Peck said: "Using fat from roasting tins to feed to garden birds is one big no-no.

"Roasting tin fat is likely to be mixed with lots of other juices which will go off very quickly and cause disease on bird tables.

"It could also damage birds' feathers which are so important for keeping them healthy and warm. And any salt added to meat can have a devastating effect of its own."

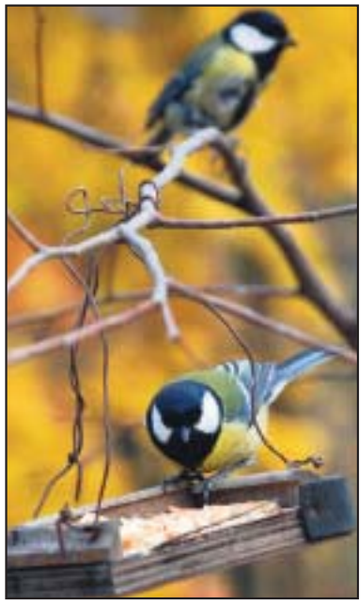
However, for those who want to share Christmas dinner with our feathered friends, there are treats that can be put on the bird table, including crumbs from cakes, biscuits and mince pie pastry, as well as cereals, fruit and mild grated cheese.

Ms Peck said: "Although cooked turkey fat must be avoided, there are lots of leftovers that will give birds energy and nutrients to help them through the winter.

Leftovers

"Natural food will be in short supply as trees and bushes are covered in snow and frost and the ground is hard. We always have so much food at this time of year and people love to put leftovers to good use.

"As long as we know which foods are suitable we can really help our wild birds fight the cold. They will repay you by brightening up gardens long into winter and coming back year after year."



DON'T BE A TURKEY: Fat from basting tins can be deadly for garden birds

A SERVICE to mark the martyrdom of Archbishop Thomas Becket will be held in Canterbury Cathedral on Tuesday. A choral evensong and procession to the Martyrdom will be held on December 29, the date on which St Thomas was murdered in 1170.

It will be held at 3.15pm – the time the killing took place. The events of that day will be commemorated with readings, music and liturgy.

The service will begin in the Quire before clergy and congregation process to the Martyrdom altar where St Thomas died. The service ends in the Crypt.

The Catholic church in Canterbury also holds one of its biannual service in the cathedral on the same day, at 8pm in the Crypt.

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"Saga has enabled me to stay at home, otherwise I'd have had to go into a care home, which is something I don't want to happen." Mrs W, Kent



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WISHING ALL OUR CLIENTS OLD AND NEW, A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

To end a year that has been tough for everyone, your support and patronage throughout the year has been much appreciated.
We feel privileged that you have all chosen to continue to use the salon and our whole team promise to work harder in our 10th anniversary year, 2010 to satisfy your hairdressing needs, thank you.
Roll on 2010, it's going to be a good year for all of us

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TRAINED counsellors will be available on a 24-hour hotline over Christmas for carers in need of support in Medway.

Carers Line Medway is a free service offering advice to carers about difficulties, from ill health, family or personal problems or debt.

Medway Council's adult services chief Tom Mason said: "There are 21,000 carers in the towns. We understand they may need someone to talk to about the pressures and stress involved, especially at Christmas. I hope they take advantage of this free service."

Call 0800 1974517, visit www.care-first.co.uk or email counsellingforcarers@medway.gov.uk.

Still ready to Create some noise



REAL DEAL: Counterfeit Quo entertain at Create 2009

By ED HILL
ed.hill@kosmedia.co.uk

A POPULAR music festival for local bands will go ahead in 2010 thanks to the support of businesses who picked up a council cash shortfall.

Ashford's Create Festival had looked set to disappear after the Tory-controlled borough council said it didn't have enough money. The summer music festival, held in Victoria Park, was threatened by council funding shortages.

But after local firms stepped in to back the festival, the council has decided to continue its support.

And that means Create can attract bigger and better acts and improve safety.

Arts development officer Chris Dixon said: "I'm delighted Create will be back in 2010 for its 15th anniversary and heartened to see how much faith Ashford has in this event.

"The festival has continually grown over the years and with the fresh wave of support I have received from the public and businesses, we have the chance to make this one the best showcases for youth and contemporary music in the region."

Platform

Create has become one of the biggest free festivals in the South East. The 2009 event attracted more than 5,000 visitors to the town. The new sponsors explained why they had decided to get on board.

Chad Jenner, of Audio Energy, said: "Create has been the best platform for music in Ashford and we hope that with the new Audio Energy main stage we can raise the bar to the next level."

Fred Mansfield, of Regency Marquees, said: "Regency is happy to be behind the event for 2010 – and for the foreseeable future."

The festival is seen as one of the few opportunities for new bands to get experience playing in front of a big crowd.

Owner of Ashford's Right Track Music School, Chris Bailey, said: "We have supported Create over the last three years.

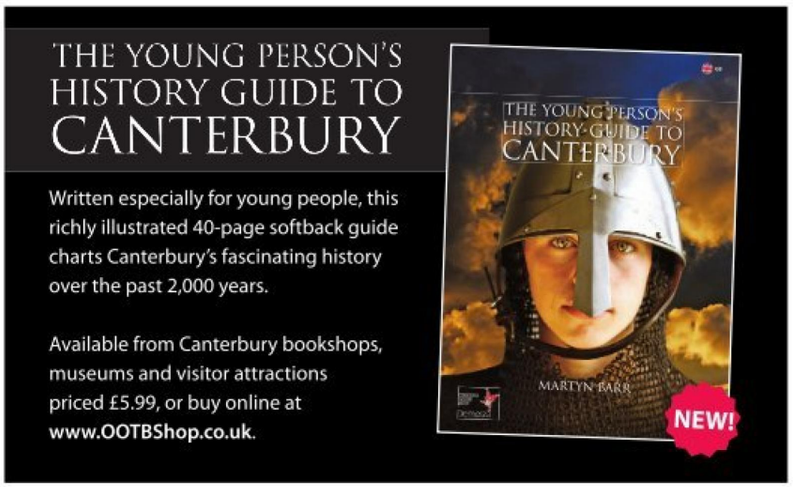
"It gives our pupils the chance to perform in their town, enabling them to realise a dream or to gain experience for future performances, as well as developing as a band or artist."

Bands will be invited to apply to appear at Create in early 2010, and local organisations, businesses or individuals are also invited to submit ideas or proposals for how they can help make Create 2010 an even bigger success.

Visit www.myspace.com/createfestival for more information.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk









JULIE MADDOCKS

A winning Christmas chart race

PART of the excitement of the festive season for me growing up was the announcement of the Christmas Number One.

The battle for the top spot was huge and incredibly important to the artist who became the seasonal sensation, both financially and professionally.

Sadly, that anticipation seems to be missing in recent years. Whether it is down to the death of vinyl singles, or the introduction of internet downloads, the musical countdown to Christmas appeared to be gone.

That was until this year, when the excitement returned, but in a very different way.

Frustrated by the automatic number one choice being down to whoever won the X Factor, husband and wife Jon and Tracy Morter decided to try and change the result of who was to top the festive charts.

For the past four years the outcome was almost cut and dried thanks to the success of whichever X Factor finalist churned out the winner's song, this year being Joe McElderry.

By the simple fact that he had won the television competition, it was an accepted conclusion that his offering, The Climb, would automatically take its place at the top of the charts, following in the footsteps of previous X Factor winners, Alexandra Burke's version of Hallelujah last year was one of the biggest selling festive singles ever.



X FACTOR RAGE: Rage Against the Machine beat Joe McElderry into the top spot

However, the Morters decided to lead an internet revolt and launched their campaign on the social network site Facebook.

In their attempt to put a stop to the "sterile pop monopoly of the UK music chart scene" , they chose to back Rage Against The Machine and their 1992 single Killing In The Name. The internet support was phenomenal and beat McElderry's offering to storm to the top spot in the charts, beating the talent show hopeful with 500,000 downloads purchased in just over a week.

The internet campaign has had a global following and has been described as the biggest upset in the music industry for years and is said to have tapped into the silent majority of the people in the UK who are tired of being spoon-fed one schmaltzy ballad after another.

What was interesting in our household was how our lads followed the online battle not dissimilar to how we would have eagerly awaited the announcement of the chart toppers as youngsters.

It was a ritual in our home. Sunday evening as mum would serve up our tea, we would be tuned into the chart show on Radio One.

From 6-7pm the dulcet tones of Tom Browne would resonate around our front room as we eagerly awaited the countdown. I'm sure the anticipation was enhanced by the fact that I felt that I had contributed to the overall decision.

I'd queue in WHSmiths with 75p of my pocket money to buy a single.

How satisfying it was knowing my purchase was making the difference to whoever claimed the prestigious hot spot of the year.

And I must admit there is a sense of pride, in knowing that I assisted Little Jimmy Osmond become the 1972 Christmas champion with Your Long Haired Lover of Liverpool.

My musical taste has always been, as you can tell, quite clearly first class.

Julie reports from around the county for KOS Media's broadband TV station www.yourkenttv.co.uk Contact her on julie.maddocks@kosmedia.co.uk

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From bubbly to beer, county has always known how to celebrate

As the biggest party of the season approaches, RACHEL McATHY finds out how the Garden of England's bounty will help toast in the New Year

THE year is drawing to a close and party poppers are poised to welcome in the New Year. For many, it will be a night of celebration, perhaps enjoyed with a glass or two of a favourite tipple.

But as you scan the supermarket shelves for the ultimate six-pack or bottle of bubbly, why not pick up some of England's top wines and ales – made right here in Kent?

Our countryside has acres of vineyards, hop gardens, orchards and barley fields which have been supplying the people of Kent and beyond with wines, ciders and ales for centuries.

The hop is Kent's most famous crop, added to beer during the brewing process to enhance the bitterness and aroma. Hops are thought to have arrived in the county in the 1500s, reaching a growing peak in the late 19th century, when they covered about 77,000 acres. Stewart Main, master brewer for Faversham-based Shepherd Neame, Britain's oldest brewery, said the county had played a crucial role in the industry throughout history.

"Kent is the home of hops and although the industry is in decline, it is still extremely important to the region," he said.

"Hop gardens can be found just a mile outside of the brewery and grow right around the town. We believe using locally sourced barley, hops and water helps to give our classic ales their key flavour."

Much like grapes in wines, different hop and barley varieties produce a wide range of beer and ale flavours. The county's most famous is Bishops Finger, a Kentish ale named after old roadside signposts.

It is brewed using water from a well beneath the Faversham brewery, as well as hops and barley grown locally, the only ale to be the product of a single county.

Despite Kent's historic links to beer and ale production, the industry has been in decline for some time. But as hop gardens disappear from our landscape, the wine business continues to boom, offering competition to Continental products.

Chapel Down in Tenterden produces a range of award-winning red and white wines, still and sparkling, from grapes both at its own vineyard and sourced from 180 acres across the South East. Kent is ideally suited for vineyards, with chalky soils across the Downs similar to those in the Champagne region of France. The summer climate provides ideal conditions to grow grape varieties perfect for high-quality sparkling wines.

The Tenterden vineyard covers 25 acres, growing a number of grape varieties from red Pinot Noir and Dornfelder to white Bacchus, Pinot Blanc and Chardonnay.

The fruits are hand-picked before being taken to the on-site winery, where about 500,000 bottles are produced annually.

Managing director Frazer Thompson said the popularity of wine was down to both its pleasure as a drink and the cultural experience.

"Every bottle can be different and if you want to learn something then a bottle of wine is an education which comes with a real story," he said. "Of course, it is also a beautiful tasting drink. But I believe you need to know something about what you are drinking to fully appreciate it."

And with more and more vineyards being planted across the county, it is easier than ever to know exactly where your bottle originated from. So to help support local producers, order your celebration drinks online at foodforkent.co.uk, where you can choose from a wide selection of some of the county's best wines, beers and ales.



HAPPY NEW YEAR: Raise a glass to Kent's fantastic wines, ales and beers as you welcome in 2010

Second Christmas market has a Continental flavour

FANCY a real festive treat this Christmas? Then take a trip to a special farmers' market.

Bromley town centre is running two markets over the coming week, offering a chance to pick up some of the best Kentish produce. The regular town centre market will take place in its normal site, at the southern end of the pedestrian area. But over the festive period a European-style market will be open at the Market Square as well.

The town centre market has been running since 1997, offering both arts and crafts products as well as fresh farm produce.

It normally runs from 9am to 5pm every Friday and Saturday, but for the first time this year will be open after Christmas. Both markets will be run from Monday, December 28, through to Sunday, January 3, except for New Year's Day.

Castle ceremony awaits winners – but vote now

THERE is just one week left to vote for your favourite food and drink products, producers and restaurants for the Taste of Kent awards.

Votes can be registered until January 3 and every voter will be entered into a prize draw to win a luxury night for two with breakfast at the ABode Hotel in Canterbury.

There are 12 categories for nominations, from Kent Butcher of the Year and best Kentish Beer, to Kent Restaurant and Kent Farmers' Market of the Year. The winners will be announced at Leeds Castle in February.

So celebrate all Kent has to offer and make your nominations at www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk.

Food security campaign

KENT producers can prove their commitment to food security in a new campaign to cut down on food waste.

Local organisation Produced in Kent has created a new award for the county, called the Love Food Hate Waste Award.

The winning company will receive the accolade at the Taste of Kent Awards 2009 ceremony, being held at Leeds Castle, near Maidstone, on February 26, 2010.

Members can apply by filling in the entry form online at http://producedinkent.co.uk/lovefoodhatewaste.shtml.

Reducing wasted food will not only save money, but support the local farming community. Companies can continue to submit entry forms until the closing date of January 22.

foodforkent.co.uk We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at foodforkent.co.uk or email us at feedback@kosmedia.co.uk

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New Years Evening from 6pm - 9pm

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Snow new thing to suffer on roads

THE headline "heavy snow causes traffic chaos" is one that has been used many times to describe the effect bad weather has on Kent's roads.

It was only 11 months ago that KOS Media last reported how an unexpected cold snap had led to the closure of roads and severe delay of trains, and yet here we are again already.

While it's true we receive only a small amount of snow per year, it's not as if it's a relatively new phenomenon caused by a change in the Earth's atmosphere.

The UK has been hit by snow virtually every year for centuries, so why have we still not learned how best to deal with it? Of course, our councils should not waste money on equipment they are not going to use, but it's worth considering making long-term investments that would save people a lot of bother – and potentially their lives – when it snows in the future.

In a month when we are celebrating the arrival of high-speed train technology, it is ridiculous that we are constantly forced back into the ice age whenever temperatures drop.

Happy New Year

BY THE time you read this the turkey leftovers will have been finished off, the last of the crackers will have been pulled and the tree will have begun to look a little out of place.

Christmas is over for another year and we hope you had a thoroughly enjoyable time and received everything you hoped for.

All that's left is to wish our readers and advertisers a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

OPINION: My vision for Kent in 2010



Innovation, ambition and education are the way ahead for us, argues Kent County Council leader PAUL CARTER

KENT on Sunday has kindly invited me to look into my "crystal ball" and set out my vision for Kent over the next year.

Some facts about the next 12 months are known.

There will be a general election. The state of the nation's finances will remain perilous. The public sector will have to provide more with less money. Private sector businesses will continue to struggle.

This rather depressing outlook is as a result of the misbehaviour of our banking system.

Despite a massive public sector bail-out of many of this country's banking institutions they will continue to be customer unfriendly, restricting lending, overcharging for the privilege of being lent money, and inhibiting the survival and growth of many good Kent businesses.

Their behaviour is sapping the energy and success of hard-working entrepreneurs.

Personally, the last 12 months have been the worst I have experienced in 30 years of running my own businesses in central London.

The recovery will be long and slow and hopefully will start after the general election. The new government's approach to restoring the state of public finances and supporting the country's economy will need a delicate hand on the tiller. The medicine needed for a full recovery will have to be applied with enormous care as the patient could so easily go into shock.

The public sector needs to understand that support to our business community is crucial, good public services are dependant upon the private sector, providing job opportunities and prosperity as well as paying significant taxation to pay for good public services.

National government, local government and public agencies should be doing all they can to support this country's economy.

We need less regulation, less bureaucracy and less interference from government if private sector companies are to flourish.

As leader of Kent County Council I will do all I can to deliver a 'can do' culture that supports the business community.

Maintaining our significant capital programme in Kent, building essential infrastructure – new roads, new schools, new social care facilities – totalling more than £1 billion in the next three years will continue to benefit private sector contractors.

In addition we will announce plans in the New Year for an exciting marketing campaign to promote Kent as a significant tourist destination in partnership with Visit Kent.

We need to look further ahead and will set out our ambitious plans for much-needed further public infrastructure projects; a Third Thames crossing and improved access for freight from Dover and Folkestone to the rest of the country, a second Thames flood barrier, extension of High Speed 1 to Manston to unlock East Kent's vast potential.

We will build on this year's successful education results, giving young people real choice and diversity, building on our successful vocational and apprenticeship programmes, and expanding job opportunity for young people.

Despite the challenges of a weak economy, Kent County Council has had an excellent year and has achieved much as a result of the hard work and dedication of its 30,000 staff.

The Audit Commission in its national league table on Local Government has placed Kent County Council at the very top.

There will be no complacency in the year ahead at County Hall.

We need to develop new ways of supporting our economy, continue to transform and innovate in the way young people are taught and acquire knowledge and skills, how we support and provide for the elderly and vulnerable, applying innovation in the way we go about maintaining our roads, in pursuit of delivering better services at less cost.

I have every expectation that Kent will go from strength-to-strength in the coming 12 months – in the health service working together to improving health and well-being; with Kent Police fighting and reducing crime; and with our 12 district councils working together in the best interests of our 1,350,000 residents.



Greedy gannets can go

It is only 12 months since the British banking system was close to total collapse.

Whatever else Chancellor Alastair Darling may or may not have done, he was, at least, instrumental in pouring public funds into the banks' coffers in order to keep them afloat.

It is therefore disingenuous that, working on the theory that world banking is on the upturn, the RBS gang should feel able or even willing to sink their collective snouts into the taxpayers' trough by way of quite farcical increments.

If RBS top brass are threatening to walk out, let them go. They presumably have failed to notice that thousands of good, decent, honest banking staff have been laid off of late.

Their collective positions will be easily filled. And just where do these greedy gannets think they will find another similarly overpaid position in the banking world?

Colin Davis, Woodhurch

A colourblind politics

Last week, you ran a story headlined 'Asian county councillor …' I question why, in this context, it is considered that Mr Sandhu's Asian origin is relevant.

I wonder if the cause of racial harmony is helped by such differentiation and by quoting Mr Sandhu as saying that he was "proud to represent the Asian community at county level".

Doubtless all those who voted for him, and perhaps many who did not, hoped he would represent them at county level, regardless of their racial origins or ancestry.

Michael H Peters, Sittingbourne

Trust and faith restored

On attending the minor injuries unit in Deal for a slight cut sustained while windsurfing, I was impressed by good medical treatment and also that the unit actually trusts its patients.

On leaving, I was not even asked to pay there and then for the prescription but given an address and asked on trust to send payment there.

This is most refreshing at a time when the State generally subjects us all to more and more intrusive (and expensive) surveillance and control.

Trust, which was badly eroded by the greed-is-good culture promoted in the 1980s and 1990s, is essential for a free and happy society.

As the great Samuel Johnson wrote in 1750: "It is better to be sometimes cheated than not to trust."

Antony Hook, chairman, Dover and Deal Liberal Democrats, Deal

Mr Fuller has been superb

Should Chief Constable Michael Fuller move on when his contract expires in March, it will be a great loss to Kent.

Since he became Chief Constable in 2004 he has, in my opinion, transformed Kent Police into one of the most successful forces in the country.

Kent, since his arrival, has led the way in the introduction of many initiatives which has resulted in a much improved and successful force.

Several initiatives that have been introduced by Mr Fuller have been adopted by other police forces.

The Chief Constable's broadcasts on Radio Kent are compelling listening.

He shows a grasp of policing second to none and what's more does his best to solve these and the public's policing problems.

If he does become Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service, I am sure he will make a great contribution to improving that service in the same way he has improved Kent's constabulary, in a quiet, calm, yet high-profile manner while keeping the public informed.

Kent's loss will be the CPS's gain and I wish Mr Fuller good luck and thank you.

John Gamet, Keston

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Tsunami work is done

Five years ago this Boxing Day, the Asian tsunami unleashed a wave of almost unimaginable human suffering.

Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives and millions were left struggling to survive a disaster the like of which none of us had ever seen.

The Red Cross was helping people on the ground within minutes of the wave striking and, in the UK, we launched an appeal to support the aid effort.

Support from the public was phenomenal and enabled us to mount our largest relief operation since World War Two. Across the country donations poured in from those who, moved by scenes of ordinary people battling to survive, gave whatever they could.

The challenges were unprecedented, the decisions incredibly difficult, but today I am extremely proud of what the Red Cross has achieved in helping rebuild people's lives and, more than that, building them back stronger.

On behalf of the Red Cross, and the millions we were able to help, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us. It has been a long road to recovery, but now, five years on, our work is completed.

Thousands of families have been rehoused, sustainable livelihoods have been secured and communities are recovering and more resilient than they have ever been.

To find out more about how the money you gave has been used and the difference it has made, visit www.recoveringafuture.org.uk.

Sir Nick Young, chief executive, British Red Cross

We need more brains

In April this year, as part of our 40th anniversary, the Parkinson's Disease Society launched an appeal to ask people to join our brain donor register.

Our aim was to find another 1,000 people to double the number of registered donors by the end of the year. The response has been incredible and so far 2,332 new donors have signed up.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has already registered. Our research using donated brain tissue has already led to major medical breakthroughs in the treatment and understanding of Parkinson's and without the support of brain donors it would be impossible to continue this work.

However, we still need more people to sign up, especially younger people with Parkinson's and men, as we have had twice the number of women sign up from the initial appeal. It is vital that the Parkinson's brain donor register represents people from all backgrounds, both with and without the disease. If you would like to find out more about joining the donor register call 0808 800 0303 or visit www.parkinsons.org.uk/brainbank and help us find a cure for Parkinson's.

Steve Ford, chief executive, Parkinson's Disease Society

Worthy of our support

I commend the decision by The Times newspaper to include Place2Be in their Christmas charity appeal this year.

Schools in Medway have benefited significantly through this scheme. Indeed, The Times has reported on the important contribution the programme has made in both the Glencoe Junior and St Mary's Catholic schools.

Place2Be provides school-based counselling for children under 14, giving them the support they need to improve their wellbeing.

It gives young people a safe place to express their feelings through talking and creative work and play.

They also run Place for Parents, assisting parents who may be depressed, and working to improve home life for Medway's children.

We have 12 schools which are benefiting from the invaluable work they do, but such schemes rely on donations and this is why I would urge you to support The Times' Christmas campaign.

They have promised that every pound donated to Place2Be through The Times appeal will be matched by the Zurich Community Trust. This is an excellent scheme which is worthy of our support this Christmas.

Cllr David Wildey, portfolio holder, Children's Social Care, Medway Council

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BLAKE
Wayne and Zoe Blake of Edenbridge are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Maisy Hope born 10th December 2009 weighing 7lb 15oz.

BRUNGER
Amelia Rose born on 11th December 2009, weighing 8lbs 3ozs. Daughter to David and Katherine Brunger in Whitstable.

DURAN
Miguel and Marlene Duran celebrate the birth of their daughter Anna Juliette Duran on 23rd November 2009.

HOLLINGSWORTH
Mark and Charlene of Folkestone celebrate the birth of their daughter Maisie Rose on 11th December 2009.

KIRKDEN
Patrick and Donna Kirkden of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Luke Patrick Kirkden on 14th December 2009.

PIPER
Julien and Jocelia Piper of Margate celebrate the birth of their daughter Giovanna Lily Leite Piper on 6th November 2009.

DEATHS

BORDER
Isla Estelle passed away peacefully at home in Maidstone aged 1 year and 11 months on 16th December 2009. She will be very much missed by her Mummy, Nan Nan, Nanny, Elk, Dog, family and friends. We love you darling always xxxx. May you rest in peace.

EARNSHAW
Gerald Earnshaw of Maidstone passed away peacefully on 15th December 2009 aged 84. Husband to Susan, father to Jonathan and Geraldine and step-father to Steven.

FARNAN
Jean Eleanor Farnan of Barming Maidstone passed away on 17th December 2009. Funeral Service at Garden of England Crematorium Bobbing at 9am on Tuesday 29th December. Enquiries to Pickard and Beale 01622 677155.

KING
Maud King of Bethersden who passed away on 16th December 2009 will be sadly missed by her family and friends.



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Review 27.12.09



Get the New Year party started

We take a look at the best places to celebrate

REVIEW
BY **JANE CONNOLLY**

WELCOME the dawn of 2010 in style at one of the many New Year's Eve events taking place across the county.

Anyone who longs to dance the night away will be in luck at Banks Bar in Maidstone, where a top DJ will be manning the decks at OFF KEY's New Year's Eve party. Clive Henry adds a touch of Balearic heat to the English winter when he makes his Maidstone debut.

OFF KEY events have had a vintage year in 2009, bringing the finest house and techno music to central Maidstone and the last party of the year promises to be the best yet. Some of the world's best acts in electronic music will be spinning the tunes and giving revellers the chance to see out the decade in world-class style.

Henry has been a big hit on Ibiza with his chunky-tech house and techno, as well as being something of a legend in the dance music world. He is a stalwart of the coveted decks at Ibiza's DC10. Resident DJs Sam Ball, Duncan K and Lee Brinx will also be back, after busy years taking their respective sounds around the world. The ticket-only event runs from 8pm-3am and takes place outdoors, under a marquee on the Banks' terrace. Tickets cost £20 including champagne on arrival between 8-10pm. To book visit www.clubtickets.com or call Banks Bar on 01622 676799.

More clubbing is on offer at Ashford's Arena nightclub, where a host of top DJs will keep the dance floor full until midnight and beyond. The event features a great line-up of acts including John 'OO' Fleming, Simon Patterson, Agnelli and Nelson, Talla 2XLC, Jes, Leon Bolier, Riley and Durrant, Fusion, Brett Wood and Luke Jacquin, Danny Tappenden and JC. The party runs from 8pm-8am. Standard tickets cost £25 or buy the limited VIP tickets for £35. To book visit www.arenalive.co.uk.

So there are some exciting options for 21st century partying, but those who fancy stepping back in time are invited to spend New Year's Eve at Dickens World in Chatham (pictured). Step into arguably the most festive of all eras at the Victorian-themed attraction, where guests will be welcomed with a champagne and canapés reception in the wonderful themed courtyard. Soak up the atmosphere in the period setting while enjoying drinks and nibbles, before sitting down for a delicious meal.

The four-course banquet includes a bottle of wine per couple and there will be plenty of entertainment on offer from the accompanying live cabaret. When the big moment comes, guests will enjoy a champagne toast under indoor snowfall as the midnight chimes of Big Ben ring out, followed by casino games and a DJ until 2am.

Prices start at £55 and all-inclusive hotel packages are on offer at the adjacent Ramada Encore, with prices from £95 per person. Alternatively, go along to the New Year's Eve party at Porters Restaurant and Bar where there will be a curry buffet, disco and late licence for an entry fee of £20 per person, email bookings@dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421.

Period setting

Spend the evening in an entirely different period setting with Deco 5, Whitstable's art deco wine bar, when Zedheads will provide the entertainment with their mix of jazz, soul and funk. Revellers pay an admission fee of £15 to include a buffet, or you can enjoy a three-course meal for £30. To book call 01227 770079 or see www.deco5.co.uk.

In the build-up to the evening's events, there is lots of old-style entertainment to enjoy with the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club's seasonal show, Festive Frivolities and Divertisements. The show runs at Broadstairs' Memorial Theatre from Monday to Thursday, with the New Year's Eve performance being a 2.30pm matinee.

The show is a celebration of the past, with a return to the elegance and sophistication of the supper club. Audiences will be greeted by hat-check girls and sold confectionery at their tables. Period dress from any era is encouraged and there will be a nightly prize for this.

Local author Jane Wenham-Jones will preside over the entertainment, which features comedy, magic and songs performed by talented local artists. The line-up includes actress and producer Lisa Payne, magic by Alan Wright and Jeeves & Wooster hilarity from Steven Todd and Bill Harris. Members' tickets cost £9 for adults, £7 for children and £28 for families, or £10/£8/£32 for non-members. To book call 0845 262 6263, non-members must book at least 24 hours in advance. For details visit www.sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

Welcome the New Year with a bang in Broadstairs with the free firework display. After spending the evening partying with family and friends, people will be flocking to Viking Bay at midnight to see the spectacular show light up the night sky.



III **FOOD AND DRINK**
Nothing quite hits the mark in this restaurant, but it's still got that certain something to draw you back



IV-V **ATTRACTIONS**
Christmas may have come and gone but it's not too late to enjoy a pantomime – oh no it isn't!



IX-XXIII **PROPERTY**
With housebuilding at a low, one expert says homes will be in very short supply next year

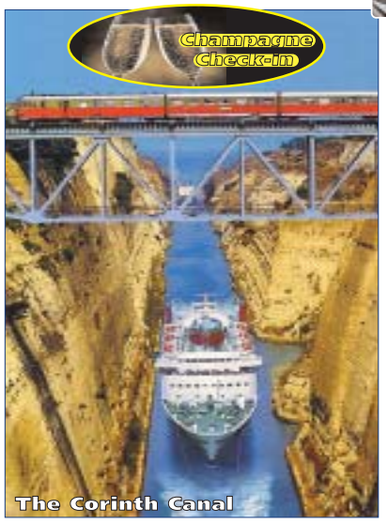
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Note: June 15 departure overnights in Lille outbound



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Prices: April from £1,139pp; May & June from £1,179pp; July & September from £1,199pp

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There's something about Giovanni's

RESTAURANT REVIEW

BY CHRIS THOMSON





THERE are some restaurants which are just like pantomimes.

The scenery looks old, the jokes are past their sell-by date, and the fundamental quality just isn't up to modern day standards. Yet somehow they work. And you leave the premises feeling like you've had a great time, but unable to work out exactly why.

All the ingredients are wrong and you wince at the price you've just paid, but you still know the minute you step outside, you'll want to go again next year.

As a perfect example of this, allow me to introduce you to Giovanni's in Whitstable. Situated a good 10-minute walk from the trendy beach end of the main thoroughfare, it was once the town's gourmet calling card. But that was then. And things have changed.

Now you can't move for competitively priced, carefully created, taste explosions with lashings of ambience in the far prettier tourist end of the town.

But what they cannot possibly provide is the experience of time travel. And Giovanni's is expert at that. You walk in and you are transported back probably 30 years.

The leather seats in the bar where you have your pre-meal drink, the lighting, the carnations on the table, everything wreaks of the late 70s/early 80s, even the music gently piped in while you eat.

You cannot help but be entirely fascinated by it... in the same way you can end up staring at someone with a terrible disfigurement. You're not being deliberately cruel or unkind, it's just that it's so unusual.

Giovanni's positions itself as an Italian restaurant. In truth, the most Italian aspect of it is the accent of the owner and sole waiter for the night.

But then he's hardly rushed off his feet. Three Saturdays before Christmas and at 8pm there are precisely no people eating. Half an hour later that number has swollen to 10. The place seats at least 60.

When we dined here some years ago, it was again remarkably quiet. You cannot but ponder how it survives.

You ponder that again when you start eating. The starters are acceptable. I plump for antipasto (£6.95) which, let's be honest, is going to test no chef. Open packet. Put thin strips of cured meat on plate. And there is no more than that. No salad, no garnish. My partner goes for the mozzarella salad – the cheese is modest, and the salad light and tasty.

Then it's the main courses. And it is here where you remember how very far we have all come over recent years. I opt for the lamb shank. It's not cheap at a few pence short of £15. Plus, there's a cunning little extra charge (£3.50) for the vegetables, which, quite frankly, I think is a ridiculous method so many eateries insist on doing. It's like a stealth tax. And anyway, the cauliflower was too watery and the spuds lacking life.

As for the meat, well, it encapsulated what is wrong with Giovanni's approach to food. The lamb was drowned out in a thick gravy goo which drenched the dish in a mundane, artificial taste. The subtleties of the tastes, the delicate tang of the sauce offsetting the juicy meat – all lost.

My partner opted for mushroom risotto. The portion far too large in this day and age. You should emerge from a restaurant feeling well fed, not fit to burst. And the taste? Well any hope of finding the gentle tastes of the rice, the seasoning and the mushrooms was lost due to a uniformity of taste. Again, every mouthful tasted the same: disappointing.

Such were the sizes of the main course, we had to turn down dessert, instead, plumping for coffee.

All in all, a disappointing array of food. Yet there is something about this place. Something about the service (super friendly). Something about the fact you are entertained throughout by your surroundings.

Even the mediocrity of the food is vaguely amusing. It's something no other restaurant in Whitstable can match, strangely enough.

You'll eat better and for better value elsewhere (with bottle of wine the bill was a smidge under £72), but you really owe it to yourself to go, if for no other reason than the novelty factor. See, just like panto.

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During the holidays, there will be opportunities for both boys and girls to undergo medieval training with the Twelfth Night events. From his throne in the Great Tower, the King will be recruiting willing young volunteers to see if they can make it through the gruelling programme.

The King is looking for brave young knights to serve and defend him, to protect his many castles and to learn this noble way of life. Volunteers will follow the traditional path from the entry position of page to the final qualification of medieval knighthood.

As a page, youngsters must learn obedience and courtesy, wait on tables and master the art of singing and dancing. If they pass muster, the hopefuls can then move on to become a squire and take part in weapons training.

Finally, those who have proved themselves worthy and loyal will earn the Indenture of Knighthood and be dubbed a knight of the realm by King Henry II.

Twelfth Knight runs at the castle this Sunday and Monday, then again from Saturday, January 2 to Monday, January 4 and knight training sessions take place twice a day.

For more details see www.english-heritage.org.uk or call 0870 333 1181.



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EVENTS

Dickens World

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Britannia Theatre New Year's Eve Extravaganza - SOLD OUT
Jongleurs Friday 5th February, tickets from £10.80
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Valentine Weekend:
Ivy Paige's Cabaret Burlesque Friday 12th February, tickets £15
Mikki Jay 'It is this' Michael Jackson Tribute Saturday 13th February, tickets from £8
Valentine Menu Sunday 14th February (a la carte menu available)

Now taking bookings for 2010, visit www.dickensworld.co.uk for more information.
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Uplifting music entertains all folk

TWO great talents combine for an unforgettable evening of folk music in Chatham next month.

QuickSilver features the talents of formidable songwriter Grant Baynham and vocalist Hilary Spencer, a duo who delight audiences with their witty songs and great musicianship. They can be seen performing together at the Central Theatre on Tuesday, January 5.

Grant Baynham became a household name on That's Life!, the BBC show presented by Esther Rantzen. His talent for songwriting continues to be infused with his wit and sense of humour, while demonstrating his ability to perform in a wide variety of genres.

He has teamed up with Hilary Spencer, whose astonishing vocals will be well known to fans of the trio Artisan. Described by Baynham as having "one of the most staggering voices in British acoustic music", Spencer brings lyrics to vivid life and has audiences spellbound with her talent. Together they lift the spirits and remind audiences just how good folk music can be.

Support will be provided by Skinner's Rats.

The Medway Folk Cellar concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £9 or £8 for folk mailing list members and Friends of the Central Theatre.

To book call 01634 338338 or see www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk.



SEASONAL LAUGHTER: Folkestone-Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society has been entertaining audiences for 35 years, and Aladdin is sure to continue the tradition

Share in three wishes

JOIN Aladdin on an exotic adventure in the Folkestone-Hythe, Operatic and Dramatic Society's family pantomime.

The festive fun continues well into the New Year as audiences are invited to join the hunt for the genie in the lamp in this fabulous show. For 35 years FHODS has been delighting audiences with its witty scripts, sensational costumes, imaginative sets and thrilling choreography. Brought to you by the team behind the successful Pinocchio, Aladdin promises to be yet another great pantomime experience.

With a new script by Graham Barraclough, a five-piece live band and all the usual excellent aspects of production, audiences can look forward to a funny, entertaining family pantomime. Ticket prices have remained at the same as last year and free parking is available, so Aladdin offers a good value night out for theatregoers of all ages.

The show opens at the Tower Theatre in Folkestone on Friday and runs until Sunday, January 10.

Tickets are priced from £7 to £10.

To book call the box office on 01303 223925 or visit www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk.



Double the fun

TELEVISION sensations John and Edward will be showing off their unique talents at a Maidstone nightclub this week.

The young Irish hopefuls divided the audience and judges when they appeared on ITV's The X Factor, prompting many to debate whether the pair – dubbed 'Jedward' by the press – had any place in a singing competition. Apart from their mentor Louis Walsh, the judges constantly questioned John and Edward's ability to hold a tune. However, they were a hit with the voting public and survived to week seven of the live stages.

Their boundless enthusiasm and unusual charm helped them pull off a number of spectacular routines, such as a spellbinding rendition of Britney Spears' Oops I Did It Again. They sang on the X Factor Finalists' single, You Are Not Alone and will rejoin their fellow finalists on The X Factor Live Tour.

John and Edward will be at Liquid & Envy in Maidstone on Wednesday, where they will perform live tracks for the UKCC Under-18s Clubbing New Year's Eve Event. Doors open at 6pm, tickets are £15 from www.ukclubculture.com.

Entry will only be available on the door if capacity has not already been reached, so book ahead for priority entry.

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Mon 18 Jan
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An Audience With Sally Morgan
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Rocky Horror Show
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Roy 'Chubby' Brown
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Tickets: £21.50

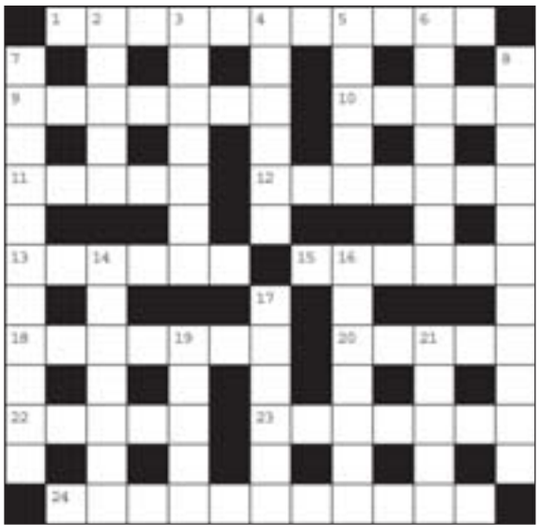
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CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1. This will reveal what is in store for you (5-6)
9. Spinner going forwards and backwards (7)
10. Not far from being stuffy (5)
11. House I will put in Virginia (5)
12. Acted busily, dressed in an old-fashioned way (7)
13. To shop in Hades in torture! (6)
15. Treachery – decapitation takes place — that's logical (6)
18. Private dress? (7)
20. By which one observes the school-child (5)
22. A piece of attire definitely worn out (5)
23. Enterprising vigour by a principal (2-5)
24. One who voices a dramatic score (5-6)

Down

2. The result of addition to unfinished story (5)
3. It's used to make an incision by the girl (7)
4. Experiences a beating? (6)
5. What the punter does for thrills (5)
6. Old ones could be fools (7)
7. Do they cause serious concern at the interment? (5,6)
8. Going in front of the female star (7,4)
14. The traveller may well put his foot in it (7)
16. Account for obsolete aircraft, we hear (7)
17. Reflections of one before different games (6)
19. Numerical sequence shows tidy arrangement (5)
21. Not the whole requirement for the chess-player (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE

QUICK CLUES

Across

1. Absolutely sure (4,7)
9. Sooner (7)
10. Wanderer (5)
11. Not concealed (5)
12. Feeling (7)
13. Stable (6)
15. Blemish (6)
18. Uniform (7)
20. Demand (5)
22. Trail (5)
23. Model (7)
24. Irish playwright (7,4)

Down

2. Weird (5)
3. Wandered aimlessly (7)
4. Merited (6)
5. Trunk (5)
6. Bill (7)
7. Show (11)
8. Recall (5,2,4)
14. Etch (7)
16. Stimulates (7)
17. Seemly (6)
19. Compare (5)
21. Boxing ring (5)

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS 366: Across: 1 Masquerade; 7 Offer; 8 Ennoble; 10 Fairness; 11 Bows; 13 Semite; 15 Ransom; 17 Also; 18 Come down; 21 Edictal; 22 Taste; 23 Afterwards. Down: 1 Mufti; 2 Serenity; 3 Uneasy; 4 Rung; 5 Dubious; 6 Confiscate; 9 Easy manner; 12 Man-eater; 14 Mastiff; 16 Follow; 19 Oasis; 20 Stye. **QUICK SOLUTIONS 367:** Across: 1 Dead certain; 9 Earlier; 10 Rover; 11 Overt; 12 Emotion; 13 Steady; 15 Defect; 18 Regular; 20 Claim; 22 Track; 23 Pattern; 24 Bernard Shaw. Down: 2 Eerie; 3 Drifted; 4 Earned; 5 Torso; 6 Invoice; 7 Demonstrate; 8 Bring to mind; 14 Engrave; 16 Excites; 17 Proper; 19 Liken; 21 Arena.

• The winner of the last crossword (no 366) is Bridget Mullarkey, Maidstone



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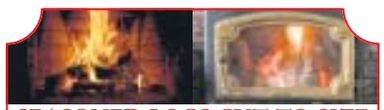
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Homes shortfall 'will reach million in 2010'

BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

THE country will be short of one million homes next year – and Kent will have to share its part of the problem.

Expert David Pretty is the co-author of a report highlighting the problems the nation will face when the New Year starts.

He said: "Our analysis shows that in England we could be approaching a one million housing shortfall by the end of 2010. With production at its lowest level in 80 years, the gap between housing supply and demand will, this year alone, be about 150,000 homes, equivalent to the size of Nottingham."

He added: "If we ignore this problem and reduce public intervention and investment in new supply of both private and affordable housing, there could be serious social and economic consequences, not least record housing waiting lists and more pain for beleaguered first-time buyers.

"Further action, such as more land release, support for new entrants in the market and expansion of the private rented sector, is needed to avoid a return to a cycle of housing boom and bust."

The report was published by the Town and Country Planning Association.

Chief executive Gideon Amos said: "This report highlights the fact we must continue to plan to provide the homes our society needs, but we must do so in a sustainable way.



TROUBLE AHEAD: With house-building at an 80-year low, experts are warning of wider consequences

"In short, we need quantity and quality. If we don't get them, the housing supply problem – already urgent – will get worse.

"The alternative of allowing housing provision to sink to a new all-time low could be storing up even more problems ahead.

"Planning can play a key part, but we need a package of solutions as set out in this report to get us back to a more balanced housing market. We will be drawing the findings of this report and our agenda for development in the downturn to the attention of all major political parties."

It found housing production is at an 80-year low which will have serious social and economic consequences, not least of which will be the increase in housing waiting lists and overcrowding to record levels.

Quality market attracts foreign bargain hunters

THE top 20 per cent of properties by value are recovering at a much faster rate than those with a lower value, a report has found.

It contrasts with the bottom fifth where prices increased by about one per cent, less than half of those that are more expensive.

Kensington and Chelsea remains the most expensive borough, with an average residential house price of £673,307, which is still 15 per cent lower than this time last year.

Robert Bartlett, the head of Chesterton Humberts, said: "The monthly increase in average house prices is a reflection of the increasingly positive attitude that is emerging within the overall market and economy.

"The rally in London, thanks in part to foreign buyers keen on bargains, has fuelled the recovery of prime property, which is recovering more rapidly than the lower end.

"The wider recovery across the board has been assisted by the ongoing shortage of good quality properties coming to the market.

"However, a lack of available finance for many buyers is preventing the recovery from fully filtering down the chain.

"Well-priced, attractive properties – especially those in the most desirable locations – are selling very well.

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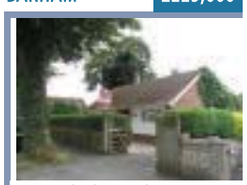
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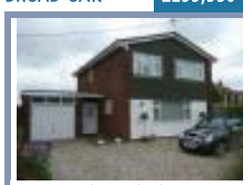
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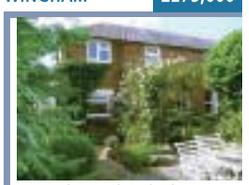
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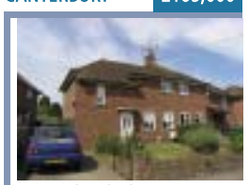
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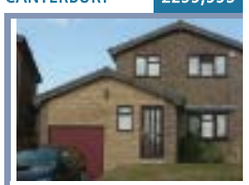
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- Two Bed and Loft Room
- Fitted Kitchen and Cellar
- Garage

CANTERBURY £236,500



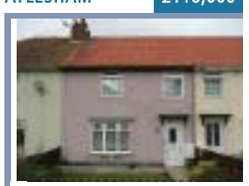
- Detached family Home
- Four Bedrooms, 2 En Suite
- Two reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen

CANTERBURY £299,995



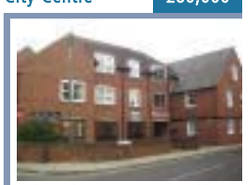
- Four bed Detached House
- Fitted kitchen
- Two reception rooms
- Conservatory, Garage

AYLESHAM £116,000



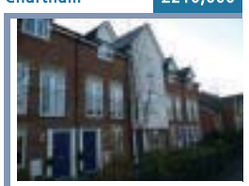
- Village Location
- 2 Bedroom Terraced Home
- No Chain

City Centre £60,000



- Exclusively for the over 60's
- Warden Assisted
- One Bedroom Apartment
- Communal Lounge

Chartham £210,000



- Three Bedroom Townhouse
- Popular Development
- Garage & Parking
- En Suite

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Maidstone Branch

CONNELLS ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2007 OVERALL WINNER

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Maidstone £139,995



- 2 Bedroom Grade 2 Listed House
- Character Features
- Parking, No Chain
- Close to Town Centre

Boughton Monchelsea £450,000



- Four Bedroom Cottage
- Bespoke Kitchen, Gardens
- Ensuite To The Master
- Double Garage & Off Road Park

Boughton Monchelsea £215,000



- New 3 Bedroom 3 Storey House
- 28" Master Bedroom and Ensuite
- Garage and Parking Space
- NHBC Warranty

Maidstone £199,995



- Three bedroom town house
- fitted kitchen, living room,
- Courtyard garden
- Central heating & allocated parking

Thurnham £635,000



- Impressive 5 Bed Detached House
- Double Garage & Ample Parking
- Three Reception Rooms
- Timber Lodge in Rear Garden

Boughton Monchelse £220k - £240k



- 3 Bedroom Detached House
- Ensuite, Conservatory
- 2 Reception Rooms

Weavering £284,995



- Four Bedrooms
- En Suite To The Master Bedroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Attractive Rear Garden

Kings Hill £299,950



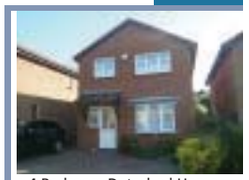
- Very Attractive 3 Bedroom House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite
- Garage and Parking

Penenden Heath £230,000



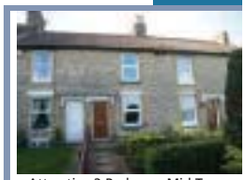
- Extended 3/4 Bed Chalet Bungalow
- Driveway for 2/3 Vehicles
- Garage
- No Forward Chain

Coxheath £240,995



- 4 Bedroom Detached Home
- Garage, Conservatory
- ORP for 4 Cars
- Village Location

Maidstone £155,000



- Attractive 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Accommodation over 3 floors
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Cellar, Parking At The Rear

Maidstone £154,995



- 2 Bedroom Duplex Apartment
- Cloakroom
- Large Bathroom
- No Chain!!!!

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Ashford Branch

CONNELLS ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2007 OVERALL WINNER

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Ashford £160,000



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Lounge, Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Room & Study
- Central Heated, Double Glazed

South Willesborough £150,000



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- 120ft Rear Garden
- Double Glazed & Central Heated
- Priced To Sell - View Now

Washford Farm £150,000



- Two Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Modern Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom/Wc
- Large Garden, Off Road Parking
- Central Heated, Double Glazed

Washford Farm £169,995



- Extended Semi Detached
- Two Bedrooms, Bathroom/Wc
- Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room
- Double Glazed, Central Heated

Kennington £219,950



- Four Bedroom Semi Detached
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen, Garden
- Bathroom/Wc & Shower-Room/Wc

Little Burton £225,000



- Three Bedroom Link Detached
- En-Suite, Lounge & Dining Area
- Fitted Kitchen, Landscaped Garden
- Viewing Highly Recommended

WASHFORD FARM £175,000



- 3 Bedrooms Semi-Detached
- Lounge & Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Bathroom/W.C, Central Heating
- Double Glazing Where Stated

Kingsnorth £165,995



- Two Bedroomed Semi-Detached House
- Lounge Kitchen
- Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Secluded Gardens

KENNINGTON £160,000



- 2 Bedroom Bungalow
- Lounge & Kitchen, Bathroom / W.C, Gardens
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing Where Stated

Park Farm £199,995



- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Dining Area
- Kitchen, En-Suite
- Cloakroom & Bathroom

Kennington £199,995



- 3 Good Bedrooms - En-Suite
- Cloakroom / Laundry Room
- Lounge, Superb Kitchen
- Bathroom, Walled Gardens

Park Farm £315,000



- Four Bedrooms
- Master Bedroom With En-Suite
- Lounge*Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast/Family Room

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DERING ROAD, ASHFORD £550PCM



2 Bed Apartment, First Floor, Private Front Door, Parking Facilities, Easy Access to Local Shops

OAKFIELD ROAD, ASHFORD £695PCM



2 Bed Semi Detached Bungalow, Enclosed Rear Garden with Decking Area, DGL, GCH, ORP.

KINGSNORTH ROAD, ASHFORD £650PCM



2 Bed Semi Detached Cottage, DGL, GCH, Newly Fitted Kitchen.

BROUGHTON COURT, ASHFORD £399PCM



Studio Apartment, First Floor, Allocated Parking, Fitted Double Bed, Kitchen with Available Now!

JILLIAN WAY, ASHFORD £695PCM



3 Bed Semi Detached House, White Goods included, Detached Garage, GCH, DGL, Shower Room

HUNTER ROAD, ASHFORD £695PCM



2 Bed Semi Detached House, Fully Furnished, Garage and Parking, Sought After Willesborough Area

MABLEDON AVE, ASHFORD £650PCM



3 Bed Maisonette, Arranged Over 3 Floors, Superb Veranda & Garden, ORP, DGL,GCH, Large Lounge/Diner

CHRISTCHURCH ROAD £650PCM



3 Bedroom House, DGL, GCH, Immaculate Throughout, Sought After Location, Enclosed Garden

SWAFFER WAY, ASHFORD £895PCM



4/5 Bed Townhouse, Flexible Accommodation, 2/3 Receptions, 2 EnSuites, Bathroom & Cloakroom, Garage & Parking

HAYWARD CLOSE, ASHFORD £795PCM



3 Bed Semi Detached House, 2 Reception Rooms, Conservatory, DGL, GCH, ORP, Garage, Available Mid Jan 2010

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Maidstone Branch

CONNELLS ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2007 OVERALL WINNER

Connells

Connells Lettings would like to wish all our landlords, tenants and future customers a Very Merry Christmas

Snodland £450 PCM



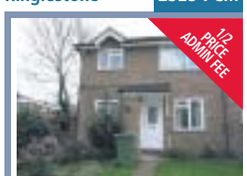
- One bedroom flat on first floor
- Living room
- Kitchen with electric cooker
- Bathroom with shower over bath

Maidstone £495 PCM



- One bedroom ground floor flat
- Small kitchenette with cooker and fridge
- Large living/dining room with wooden floor
- Double bedroom and large bathroom

Ringlestone £525 PCM



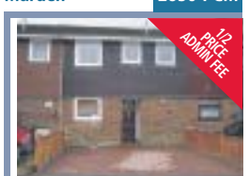
- One bedroom house in private location
- Gardens to front and rear with shed
- Cooker in kitchen
- Large bedroom with wardrobe unit

East Farleigh £625 PCM



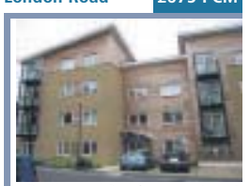
- Two bedroom property with dressing area
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern bathroom with electric shower
- Rear enclosed garden NO PETS SORRY

Marden £650 PCM



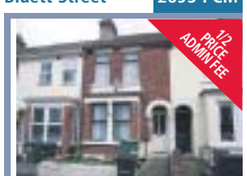
- 3 bedroom house in Marden
- modern kitchen with appliances
- rear paved garden with summer house
- off road parking, very near to Marden Station

London Road £675 PCM



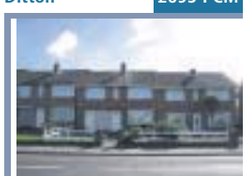
- Really good 2nd floor apartment
- 2 double bedrooms, one with ensuite
- open plan living room and kitchen
- Allocated parking, gas central heating

Bluett Street £695 PCM



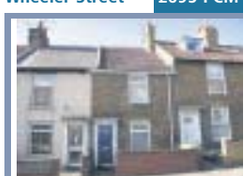
- Lovely house near to Maidstone Centre
- Rear garden, through lounge and kitchen
- 2 good sized bedrooms and bathroom
- on road permit parking

Ditton £695 PCM



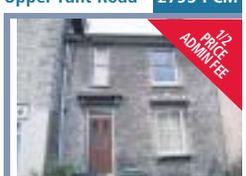
- 3 bedroom house in Ditton
- Spacious kitchen /diner
- Rear and front gardens and conservatory
- Modern bathroom

Wheeler Street £695 PCM



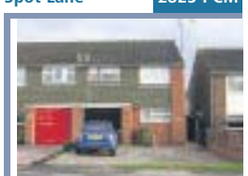
- Three bedroom house with garage and garden
- Lovely modern kitchen with appliances
- Downstairs bathroom with shower over bath
- 2nd bedroom as dressing room

Upper Fant Road £795 PCM



- 4 bedroom house suitable for sharers
- Furnished with basin in each bedroom
- Shower room, 2 reception rooms
- Rear garden, on road parking

Spot Lane £825 PCM



- Three bedroom family house near lake
- Rear enclosed garden with shed
- Off road parking
- 2 bedrooms, shower in bathroom

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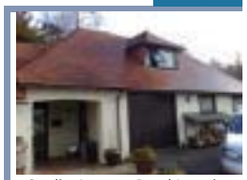
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Ashford Branch

ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2007 OVERALL WINNER

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Westwell — £395pcm



- Studio Annexe, Rural Location with lovely views
- Kitchenette area Available furnished or unfurnished

Lakemead — £495pcm



- 1 Bedroom apartment
- Lounge/ Diner
- Kitchen with appliances
- Allocated Parking

Kennington — £550pcm



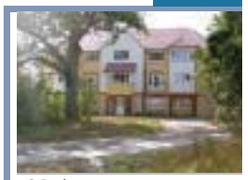
- 2 Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge/ Diner
- Fitted Kitchen, Juliet Balcony
- Allocated parking

Merlin Way — £595pcm



- 2 Bedroom House
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Downstairs W/C
- Garden

Bluebell Road — £600pcm



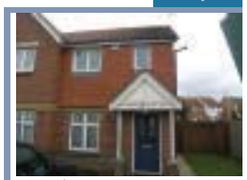
- 2 Bedroom apartment
- Master with en-suite and fitted wardrobe
- Open plan Lounge/ Kitchen

Guernsey Way — £650pcm



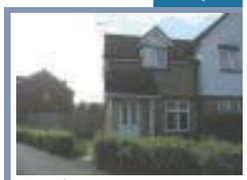
- 2 Bedroom House
- Lounge
- Kitchen with appliances
- Cloakroom

Wallis Road — £650pcm



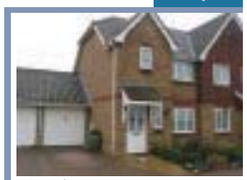
- 2 Bedroom House
- Kitchen/ Diner
- Off road parking
- Walking distance to town centre

Gordon Close — £650pcm



- 2 Bedroom House
- Master with fitted wardrobe
- Kitchen/ Diner
- Off road parking

Oakham Drive — £675pcm



- 3 Bedroom House
- Master with en-suite
- Family bathroom, Lounge
- Kitchen/ Diner

Bishopswood — £700pcm



- 3 Bedroom House
- Kitchen with appliances
- Lounge
- Bathroom

Sir John Fogge — £725pcm



- 3 Bedroom House
- Kitchen with white goods
- Master with en-suite
- Easy access for M20

Barley Way — £725pcm



- 3 Bedroom House
- Lounge with French doors
- Modern kitchen
- Popular location

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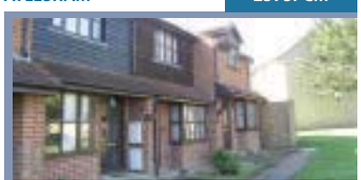
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Canterbury Branch

ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2007 OVERALL WINNER

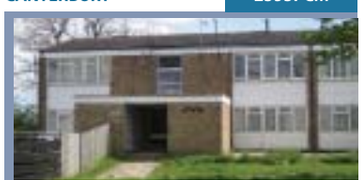
Connells

AYLESHAM — £575PCM



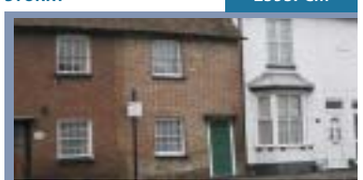
- Two bedrooms
- Good access to A2
- Off street parking
- Available now

CANTERBURY — £595PCM



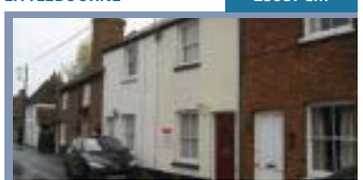
- One bedroom flat
- Good condition
- Good size property
- Available soon

STURRY — £595PCM



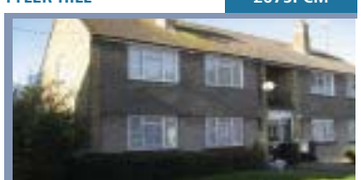
- Two double bedrooms
- Cosy Cottage feel
- Good access to city centre
- Available now

LITTLEBOURNE — £595PCM



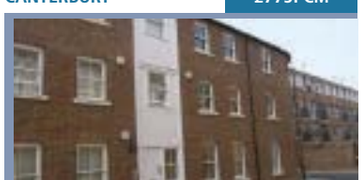
- One bedroom
- Additional study room
- Village location
- Available soon

TYLER HILL — £675PCM



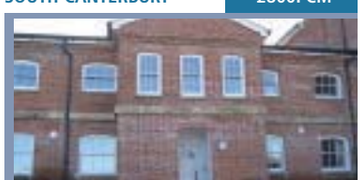
- Two bedrooms
- Ground Floor
- Village location
- Available now

CANTERBURY — £775PCM



- Two bedrooms
- Second Floor
- En-suite to master
- Available immediately

SOUTH CANTERBURY — £800PCM



- Two double bedrooms
- En-suite to master
- Off street parking
- Available now

ROUGH COMMON — £1250PCM



- Four bedrooms
- En-suite to master
- Garage
- Available now

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Countrywide

Sittingbourne



£119,950

Three bedroom terrace house with two receptions, bathroom, kitchen, gardens, gas central heating.

Sittingbourne



£139,995

No chain! This three bedroom semi detached house. Garage with shared access driveway.

Sittingbourne



£144,950

Bay fronted terrace house with two bedrooms, two reception rooms, two bathrooms and garage.

Kemsley



£159,500

Immaculate property with three bedrooms, en suite, kitchen with integrated appliances, lounge/dining room and cloakroom.

Sittingbourne



£165,000

Four bedroom semi detached house, wheelchair access, drive to side, double glazing, central heating.

Sittingbourne



£169,995

Semi detached house. Lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, conservatory and three bedrooms with accessing loft.

Sittingbourne



£170,000

Three bedroom semi detached with driveway. lounge and kitchen/breakfast room. En-suite shower room facilities.

Sittingbourne



£189,995

Four bedroom town house. En suite shower, cloakroom, lounge and dining room. Garage and rear garden.

Sittingbourne



£199,995

Detached bungalow, Iwade village, conservatory, two bedrooms & parking. Well presented internally and externally.

Sittingbourne



£215,000

Versatile four bedroom town house. Cloakroom, dining room, kitchen and lounge. Built-in wardrobes and en-suite.

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New Romney 01797 363194
newromney@geeringandcolyer.com



Dover £145,000

Two bedroom first floor purpose built apartment. The apartment offers a lounge with access to balcony, an integral garage, entry phone system, a principal bedroom with ensuite shower room.

Dover Office 01304 207099



Romney Marsh £289,995

Marsh Cottage is a period cottage in the village of Brookland. Offers two bedrooms and bathroom. Lounge/diner, kitchen with built in hob and oven, utility area. Conservatory, rear garden.

New Romney 01797 363194



Dover OIEO £145,000

Newly refurbished two bedroom detached bungalow. Lounge, new fitted kitchen, new bathroom, utility room, gardens. New boiler and gas central heating, and is fully double glazed.

Dover Office 01304 207099



Folkestone £115,000

No forward chain. Situated in Folkestone's West End, this is a two bedroom lower ground floor flat with open plan accommodation comprising of lounge/kitchenette.

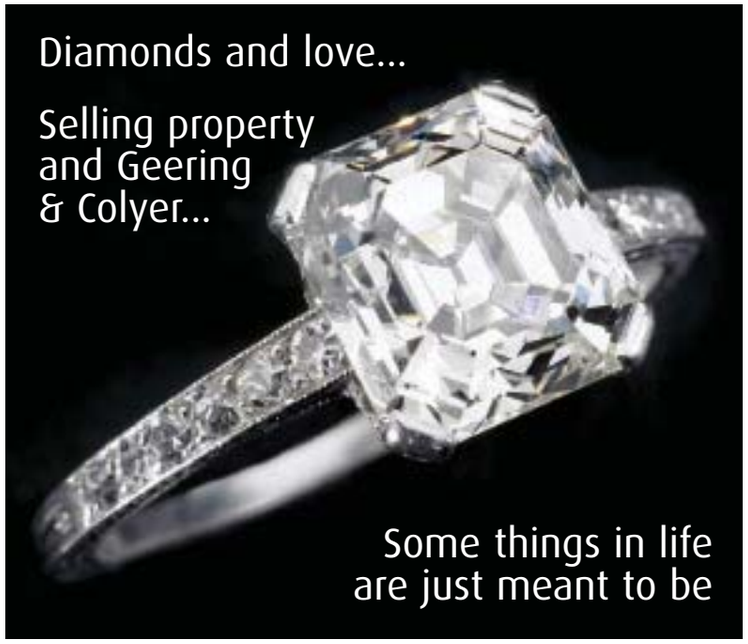
Folkestone Office 01303 250757



Dover £215,000

Beautifully presented `River` home !! This 3 bedroom 1930s semi detached house has been extended to include a light and bright kitchen that really is the hub of the home.

Kearsney Office 01304 823714





Dover £249,950

Three bedroom detached bungalow. Lounge & Dining area. Music room. Newly fitted kitchen. Driveway parking. Workshop. Double glazing and gas central heating.

Kearsney Office 01304 823714



New Romney £180,000

Three bedroom semi-detached character cottage. Two receptions, modern kitchen and bathroom, many original features including beams and cast iron fireplaces.

New Romney 01797 363194



Dover OIEO £153,000

Three bedroom semi-detached family home. The property briefly comprises of a hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, lounge, bathroom, lawned garden.

Dover Office 01304 207099



Sandgate £164,995

CHAIN FREE. This is a semi detached family home in a sought after location with three bedrooms, lounge/diner, garage and off road parking.

Folkestone Office 01303 250757



New Romney OIEO £335,000

Situated close to the High Street, this three bedroom detached house has a separate one bedroom annexe at the rear which overlooks the pretty rear garden with pond.

New Romney 01797 363194

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Vinters Park — OIEO £162,500

An improved end of terraced home with no ongoing chain. The property benefits from a re-fitted kitchen with appliances and is newly carpeted. To the rear is a garden and a garage.

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Maidstone — £215,000

A superb four bedroom end of terrace home with an en suite shower room to the master bedroom. Open kitchen/dining room with slate flooring. Living room and family bathroom.

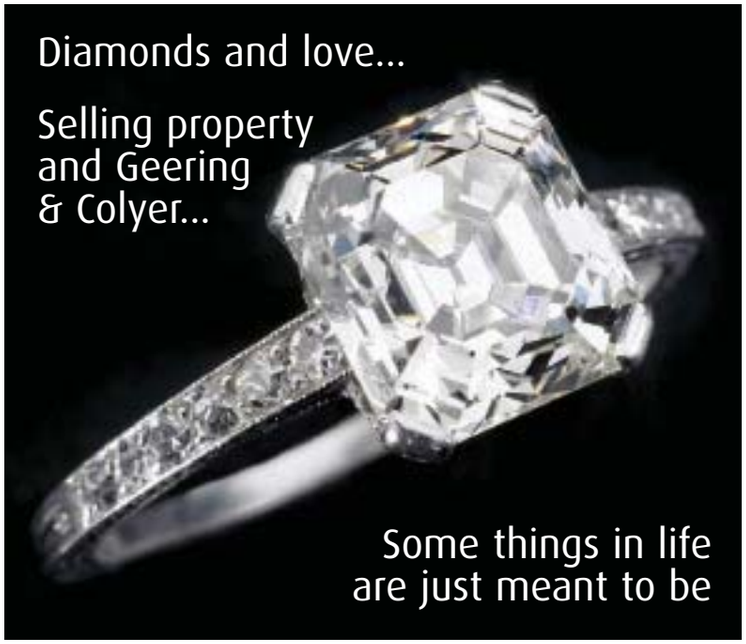
Maidstone Office 01622 759891



Maidstone — £89,950

NO CHAIN. A one bedroom starter home. Double bedroom and bathroom on the first floor and a living room and kitchen on the ground floor. Mainly double glazed.

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Maidstone — £94,950

A Grade II listed three bedroom end of terrace cottage located in the town centre. The accommodation is arranged over three floors and there is no forward chain.

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Maidstone — OIEO £105,000

A unique two bedroom Grade II Listed terraced home. Arranged over three floors with modern kitchen and bathroom but does require some work. Two loft rooms with separate staircases.

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Maidstone — £125,000

A two bedroom end of terrace home with two reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. Other benefits to note include gas central heating, double glazing and garden.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



Maidstone — £125,000

A three bedroom terraced home with off road parking and no forward chain. This property benefits from a large rear garden and is Stamp Duty Free.

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Maidstone — £129,950

A one bedroom bungalow for the over 55's. No ongoing chain, double glazing, electric storage heating and has a low maintenance corner plot garden.

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Maidstone — £140,000

Two bedroom terrace house. Gas fired central heating. Double glazing. Off road parking. Viewing recommended.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891



Barming — OIEO £200,000

A two bedroom semi detached bungalow with lounge/dining room, double glazing and oil fired central heating. Has been re-decorated but would benefit from an updated kitchen and bathroom.

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- Four Bedroom Detached House.
- Three Receptions. Cloakroom.
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- Garage. Driveway. Chain free.
- Double glazing. Gas central heating.

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- Lounge and dining room.
- Possible room to extend subject to planning.

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Minster On Sea
- Three bedrooms, garage
- Off road parking, sea views, no chain.
- Double glazing, central heating,

OIEO £130,000
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Kemsley
- Two bedroom house
- Ideal as a first time buy or young family.
- Allocated parking. Garden.

OIEO £130,000
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Sheerness
Three bedroom end of terrace house.
Close proximity to town centre and local amenities.
No forward chain. Viewings advised.

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Sittingbourne
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- Ideal first purchase or investment.

£119,995
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Warden
- Three Bedrooms. Warden Bay Location.
- No Onward Chain.
- Viewing Recommended.

OIEO £100,000
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Minster On Sea
- One bedroom detached bungalow,
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OIEO £100,000
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Weavering

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- Attractive Cottage Garden

OIEO £110,000

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£270,000

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Maidstone

- Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow,
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- Good Size Gardens, Garage, No Chain

£250,000

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Weavering

- Two Bedroom Bungalow,
- Double Glazing, Central Heating,
- Garage And Attractive Garden

£222,500

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Maidstone

- Spacious Older Terrace Home
- 2 Receptions. Kitchen. 2 Bedrooms.
- Bathroom. Rear Garden. Garage.

£182,500

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Maidstone

- Three Bedroom Terrace House
- Conservatory, Gas Central Heating,
- Double Glazing And Garage

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Maidstone

- 3 Bedrooms. 3 Reception Rooms.
- Modern Kitchen. Wet Room. Separate Wc.
- Double Glazing. Side Lobby. Garden.

Guide Price £175,000

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Maidstone

- Spacious Older Terraced Home
- Two Bedroom. Two Receptions.
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom. Garden.

OIEO £165,000

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Maidstone

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OIEO £164,950

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- over four floors. Balconies.
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Rochester

- Five bedroom semi detached
- Two receptions, long garden
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OIEO £315,000

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Chatham

- Three Bedroom Detached House
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Study, Lounge/Diner, Bathroom

£239,995

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MANN COUNTRYWIDE are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £227,000 for 5 Woodpecker Glade, Gillingham, Kent, ME8. Anyone wishing to submit an offer for this property should contact: Mann Countrywide, 11 High Street, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 7HX 01634 374953 before exchange of contracts.

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Rainham

- Three bedroom end of terrace
- Two receptions, Fitted kitchen.
- Garage, Garden, Double glazing

£169,995

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Strood

- Two bedroom end of terrace
- double glazing, central heating
- Two ensuites.

OIEO £160,000

CALL OUR RAINHAM OFFICE 01634 374953



Wainscott

- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Close to train station and amenities
- Viewing advise.

Offers Over £155,000

CALL OUR ROCHESTER OFFICE 01634 812697



Rochester

- A three bedroom end of terrace
- Kitchen/diner, cloakroom
- Rear garden, garage, no chain

OIEO £135,000

CALL OUR GILLINGHAM OFFICE 01634 851008



Gillingham

- Kitchen, lounge, bathroom
- Two bedrooms. Lease, maintenance
- & ground rent to be confirmed.

£92,500

CALL OUR GILLINGHAM OFFICE 01634 851008



Chatham

- Two bedroom end of terrace
- Two reception rooms, double glazing
- In need of some updating

£85,000

CALL OUR GILLINGHAM OFFICE 01634 851008



Gillingham

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- No chain, Close to town

£68,000

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Bairstow eves

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Countrywide

Rochester


OIEO £120,000

Three bedroom town house. Two receptions, spacious kitchen/diner, ground floor bathroom and garden.

Rochester


OIEO £145,000

Three bed roomed extended semi-detached, boasting double glazing, central heating, fitted kitchen.

Chatham


£145,000

Three bedroom end of terrace. Lounge/diner. Refitted kitchen. Family bathroom & shower room.

Rochester


OIEO £165,000

Two double bedroom terrace house, lounge/diner onto Conservatory, double glazing & parking.

Strood


£168,995

Three bedroom semi-detached offering double glazing, central heating, fitted kitchen and conservatory, corner plot.

Hoo


£172,000

Three bedrooms, lounge, re-fitted kitchen/diner, central heating, double glazing, corner bath, gardens and garage.

Chattenden


OIEO £239,995

Three bedroom town house, kitchen with own balcony, utility room and cloakroom/shower room, lounge/diner.

Rochester


£239,995

Spacious 3 bedroom semi detached, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen with utility area, cloakroom, bathroom.

Strood


Asking Price £340,000

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Strood


£449,995

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Bairstow eves

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Countrywide

Maidstone


OIEO £119,995

Two bedroom flat, garage and driveway, woodland views, refitted bathroom. Viewing recommended.

Maidstone


Asking Price £130,000

Two bedroom ground floor apartment on Queens Road. En-suite shower room. Allocated parking. Fitted wardrobes.

Maidstone


£210,000

Spacious two bedroom house with bathroom, downstairs shower room and toilet, separate receptions, garden and parking spaces.

Maidstone


£219,995

Flexible family accommodation, lounge, kitchen with office adjacent, cloakroom and storage area, 3 bedrooms and bathroom. The rear garden.

Wateringbury


Asking Price £225,000

Modern style accommodation over two storeys, semi rural location, should be seen in person to be fully appreciated.

Maidstone


Offers Over £235,000

NO CHAIN. Detached modern three bedroom house. Conservatory, en-suite, integral garage, landscaped gardens.

Maidstone


£249,995

lounge/diner with wood flooring, storeroom, kitchen with barrelled ceiling, 3 bedrooms, en-suite bathroom and family bathroom.

Maidstone


£349,995

Separate reception rooms in lounge and dining room. Kitchen. Four bedrooms. Family bathroom plus guest shower room.

Penenden Heath


OIEO £350,000

Unique and imposing period house. Four bedrooms and three reception rooms. Double garage and gated driveway.

Boughton Monchelsea


Asking Price £450,000

Unique four bedroom bungalow in semi rural village location. Double garage. Viewing essential.

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BIRLING £749,995
An outstanding 4 bedroom ragstone home with 1 bedroom detached Annexe in a secluded rural location. 3 bath/shower rooms. 7m dual aspect Sitting room. Double Garage; separate Garage. Pkg. Beautiful gardens: Approx 3/4 Acre.
West Malling 01732 842668



PLATT COMMON £650,000
Delightful 17th Century property in a popular semi-rural location. 3/4 bedrooms. Family room/Bedroom 4. Sitting room with Inglenook and beams. Dining room. Conservatory. Study area. Feature gardens: 1/4 Acre plot.
Borough Green 01732 882266



SEVENOAKS £595,000
A 4 bedroom Georgian style detached family house about 1/2 mile from town centre by road, less by footpath. 2 bath/shower rooms. 2 reception rooms. Well equipped kitchen. Landscaped rear garden.
Sevenoaks 01732 452246



KINGS HILL £350,000
Attractive 3 bedroom detached house built by Bryant homes to their 'Stamford' design. This style of house has created a lot of interest in the past, therefore your early viewing is essential.
West Malling 01732 842668



IGHTHAM £495,000
A charming detached character cottage in a secluded ? acre plot delightfully situated on the village outskirts. 3 bedrooms. 2 reception rooms. Scope for further improvement/extension, Subj to Planning Consent.
Borough Green 01732 882266



CHIPSTEAD £350,000
Conveniently located extended 5 bedroom semi-detached house in a no through road. Sitting room; Dining room; Study/Bedroom 5. Day room. 2 bath/shower rooms. Good size rear garden adj River Darent. NO CHAIN.
Sevenoaks 01732 452246



WEST MALLING £239,995
A charming two double bedroom cottage built around 1900 and conveniently situated in a 'no through road' close to West Malling High Street and local amenities.
West Malling 01732 842668



ST MARY'S PLATT £349,995
Link detached 4 bedroom family home recently updated and redecorated to a high standard in a cul de sac about 1 mile from the village. 3 reception rooms. Recently installed Conservatory and Kitchen.
Borough Green 01732 882266



SEVENOAKS £224,950
A well maintained mid-terrace house on the North side of Sevenoaks near local shops and Superstore. 2/3 bedrooms. Sitting room; Dining room. Rear Garden with timber decking.
Sevenoaks 01732 452246



KEMSING £495,000
A 4 bedroom detached Bungalow with flexible accommodation on the edge of this popular village. Sitting room overlooks mature rear garden. Dining room. Study. About 1/3 Acre (tbv). Scope for modernisation/extension, subj to Planning..
Otford 01959 522164



SHOREHAM £299,995
First Floor Apartment retaining many original features and with views over communal grounds and the River Darent. Master Bedroom en suite. Further Bedroom/Drawing room. Double aspect Sitting room. Garage.
Otford 01959 522164



KEMSING £230,000
Scope for Modernisation/Extension, Subj to Planning: A 3 bedroom semi-detached property on the market for the first time since built in the 1960s and convenient for local amenities. Sitting/Diner. Garage. Rear garden adjoining Woodland. NO CHAIN.
Otford 01959 522164

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Ramsgate £133,500

Terraced House, Two Bedrooms, Close To Main Amenities, Viewing Highly Recommended, Garden To Rear, Within School Catchments



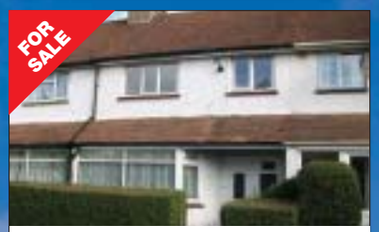
Broadstairs £135,000

Newly Refurbished Flat, Second Floor, One Bedroom, Sea Views, Close To All Amenities, No Onwards Chain



Broadstairs £145,000

First Floor Apartment, One Bedroom, Broadstairs Seafront Location, Imposing Entrance Hall, Excellent Order Throughout, No Onwards Chain



St Peters £147,000

Terraced House, Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, No Onwards Chain, Popular Location, Garden To Rear, Viewing Recommended



Ramsgate £162,500

Semi Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Gardens To Front & Rear, Convenient Location



Margate £164,995

Double Fronted Terraced House, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Two Reception Rooms, Conservatory



Ramsgate £174,995

Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Tandem Double Garage, Gardens To Front & Rear, No Onwards Chain, Convenient Location



Margate £177,500

End Of Terrace House, Four Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Convenient Location, Garden To Rear, Viewing Essential

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Ramsgate £195,000

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Margate - £199,995

Semi Detached House, Three Double Bedrooms, Bathroom + Shower Room, Large Conservatory, Off Street Parking, No Onwards Chain Spacious Living Accommodation



Broadstairs £ 217,500

Detached Bungalow, Two Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Garage Plus Space, Gardens To Front And Rear, Highly Sought After Location, No Onwards Chain



Ramsgate £249,995

Terraced Period House, Five bedrooms, Three Reception Rooms, Original Character Features, Distant/Partial Sea Views, Spacious Accommodation



Ramsgate £275,000

Detached Bungalow, Four Bedrooms, Secluded Gardens, Tandem Garage, Bathroom + Shower Room, Desirable Location



Ramsgate £275,000

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Ramsgate £229,995

Detached House, Three Bedrooms, Excellent Order Throughout, Off Street Parking, Desirable Location, Conservatory



Broadstairs - £339,995

Semi Detached House, Private Driveway, Secluded & Large Plot, Excellent Order Throughout, Desirable Location, Garage Plus Off Street Parking



Broadstairs - £650,000

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Maidstone **£600pcm**
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Maidstone **£850pcm**
Three bedroom extended family home, GCH, DG, garage and parking



Maidstone **£800pcm**
Two bedroom penthouse in sought after location close to Maidstone town centre and all local amenities



Boughton Monchelsea **£825pcm**
Three bedroom cottage, GCH, DG, two parking spaces, lovely location



Maidstone **£900pcm**
Three bedroom detached house, GCH, DG, off road parking and a garage



Rochester **£795pcm**
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CABIN CREW: BTEC is an opportunity to get into the holiday trade

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STUDENTS are being given the chance to work abroad through a popular travel and tourism course.

People hoping to work in the holiday trade can get their qualifications from North West Kent College in Dartford in a two-year BTEC National Diploma option.

During their studies, students will be able to carry out work experience in the county's airports, including Biggin Hill and Manston.

Last year, one student worked on entrepreneur Alan Sugar's private jet, while others have gone on to work as cabin crew for big name airlines British Airway and Ryan Air.

This year, people on the course will be going to Bulgaria and Poland to assess tourist attractions to compare them with places in Britain.

For more information go to www.nwkcollege.ac.uk.

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Giving everyone a job guarantee

YOUNG people in Kent who have been unemployed for six months or more are being guaranteed a job, training or work experience through a new reform of the welfare system.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Yvette Cooper, work and pensions secretary, said more than 100,000 opportunities for under 25s in the county are being created to ensure they find employment.

She also stressed that every person on benefits for at least six months, whatever their age, would be at least £40 per week better off when moving into work.

Her announcement forms part of a new White Paper; Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment, which sets out a £400 million programme over the next 18 months, including £300m to tackle youth unemployment across the UK.

In Kent and Medway alone recent figures have shown that 2,310 people aged between 18 and 24 have been claiming Jobseekers' Allowance for more than six months.

Ms Cooper said: "In the 1980s youth unemployment continued to rise for four years after the recession ended.

"A generation of talent was wasted. We are determined that must never happen again, so we will guarantee a job, training or work experience at six months for 18 to 24-year-olds.

"And, because we believe that work is the best way out of poverty, we are continuing with radical reform to the welfare system.

White Paper

"This means that everyone – be they lone parents, carers or disabled people – will get the support they need, not only to get work, but to stay in work."

In its White Paper, the Government has announced further jobs in policing and transport for those struggling to find employment.

Older people are also set to benefit, with a wide package of support designed to help jobseekers.

The plans mark the next step in the Government's benefit reform programme which looks to ensure that everyone on benefits is on the way back into employment.

As part of proposals, ministers have launched a special financial incentive to enable employers to take on apprentices.

Iain Wright, Minister for 14-19 Reform, said it is vital to invest in young people during the economic downturn to ensure the economic climate does not ruin the prospects of a generation.

"Apprenticeships are a key route to building the national skills base and a fantastic way for young people to progress in the workplace and they make good business sense," he said.

"Thousands of employers are already taking on apprentices, but it is right that we help make it easier for them."

Kevin Brennan, minister for further education, skills and apprenticeships, agreed that investing in young people is the way forward.

"That is why this Government is expanding apprenticeships, increasing the number of university places and is making sure that young unemployed people get the skills they need to get work and get on at work," he said.

To read the full White Paper go to www.dwp.gov.uk/buildingbritainsrecovery.

Bright spark Ross is award winner

AN ELECTRICIAN has been recognised as the South East's best apprentice at a prestigious awards ceremony.

Ross Mills, from Tonbridge, beat 10 other hopefuls to be crowned the winner and will compete nationally in the Best Apprentice awards in February.

The 23-year-old works for Strange Electrical Ltd, in Tunbridge Wells, and is mentored by training provider JTL. His personal mentor John Macoy presented him with the award.

Mr Mills thanked Mr Macoy and his employer for supporting him through his apprenticeship.

"They've inspired and encouraged me to recognise what I can achieve as an electrician," he said.

"It's a real honour to be the region's top apprentice as the last four years have been a very challenging experience, but knowing that I've got a great future ahead of me makes it all worthwhile."

JTL's chief executive Denis Hird added: "These are challenging times for the construction industry, but it is a great tribute to employers in the South East that they are training up high quality young people like Ross who will provide the skills the South East needs when the industry emerges from the present downturn."

Phillip Hadaway, from Sittingbourne, based at WE Manin Ltd, came runner-up.



CEREMONY: Winner Ross Mills

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- Retail, Wholesale, Sales
- Scientific and Pharmaceutical, Research
- Transport, Logistics, Aviation

nacro

changing lives
reducing crime

Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years / adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies at our Chatham New Bridge House Centre:

PROGRAMME MANAGER

£21,273

We are looking for a motivated individual to develop and deliver a Hospitality/Catering Foundation Learning course to 14-19 year olds, which includes e2e Provision and Schools.

You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in Hospitality and Catering to increase their participation and progression. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to ensure take up of the course.

ASSISTANT TRAINER

£13,466

We are looking for a motivated individual to assist the Programme Manager to develop and deliver a Hospitality/Catering Foundation Learning course to 14-19 year olds which includes e2e Provision and Schools.

You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in Hospitality and Catering to increase their participation and progression.

Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

We have the following vacancy at our Pathways Construction Centre in Chatham:

TRAINER

£17,834

We hold contracts for Entry to Employment (e2e) and Schools to deliver programmes which engage and develop young people in order that they may progress into Employment, Training or Further Education.
We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme for young people.

This post will be based at our Pathways Centre which specialises in Construction

Contact carlie.kimpton@nacro.org.uk or call Carlie Kimpton on 01634 402761 for an application pack.

We have the following vacancies at our Sittingbourne Centre:

YOUTH WORKER – PART TIME (18HRS) ESF Switch Project

£7,946

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who can motivate and engage young people between the ages of 14-16 on short motivational courses. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent.

TRAINER – ESF TIE Project

£17,834

We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas so that we can expand our programme with 14-19 year old young people. You will need to be willing to travel to deliver the courses in various locations across Kent, and including the Young Offenders Institute in Medway.
These post will work from our Sittingbourne Centre

Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.
Closing date for all the above posts is 8 January 2010

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for people who like to volunteer to support the learners in our Centres in various roles e.g. mentoring, support for Skills for Life, in particular reception type duties at our Pathways Centre. Travel and lunch expenses are paid.

Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

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Part Time
Excellent Customer Service and food standards
Apply in store
andrea@candhfabrics.co.uk
01892 773611

COOK

Required for residential care home in Folkestone. Must have experience in Cooking for the elderly. Post is subject to CRB check.

For more information please call Julia Carter (Home Manager) Telephone 01303 254019

Data Entry Assistant (Job Share)

Team-oriented person required for digital education company in Beckenham. Able to work in busy team, answer calls, queries, data entry, customer correspondence, tests & diplomas. 3 days per week - Monday, Friday & either Tuesday or Thursday

Apply to
admin@ebluk.co.uk or Telephone: 020 8658 7711

To advertise in this section

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Please apply online at **www.reeves-neylan.com** or send a copy of your CV to: Joanna Wooding, HR Team, 37 St Margaret's Street, Canterbury CT1 2TU, or via email to hr@reeves-neylan.com
Training programme details are also available online.

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Admin and Marketing Exec

Support local produce? Want to get involved with a fast growing environmentally friendly business? Love the internet?

This is an exciting opportunity to join a fast growing online consumer business – Food For Kent. Due to the current rapid expansion of Food For Kent and its online home retail business we are recruiting an admin and marketing executive to support our ongoing operations in Aldington, nr Ashford.

We deliver high quality locally sourced food across Kent and London and require a dynamic professional to help our business grow to the next stage.

The successful candidate will play a key role:
- Coordinating and delivering the marketing strategy
- Managing online content
- Customer communication and analysis

Reporting to the Managing Director the successful candidate will ideally:
- Have 1 years marketing experience
- Educated to degree standard
- Excellent communication skills
- Computer literacy essential

Benefits include:

£15-18K basic salary + bonus (based in a beautiful setting!)

This really is an exciting time to join a progressive, forward thinking company. Apply now in writing to info@foodforkent.co.uk

Closing date for applications 1st January 2009.

foodforkent.co.uk
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Is this the job for you?

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our homes in

BIRCHINGTON

www.achuk.com

SUPPORT WORKERS
Salary £13,250

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For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com

Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8871.

ACH London Limited
Providing Care, Developing Independence

Is this the job for you?

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in

BOBBING

www.achuk.com

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS
Salary from £15,250

SUPPORT WORKERS
Salary £13,250

For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com
Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8871.

ACH London Limited
Providing Care, Developing Independence

Seven Springs, Pembury Road
Tunbridge Wells

Leonard Cheshire Disability

FULL TIME SUPPORT WORKER

Required to work in a busy friendly Residential Home for physically disabled adults.

Experience preferred but not essential as full training will be given.

For an application form and job description please contact us on 01892 531138 during office hours. Closing date Friday 8th January 2010.

A REWARDING NEW CAREER IN
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Arriba Weight Loss Challenge Leaders required
Full Time/Part Time £1000-3000 per month
Full training and support available

Call Estelle on 01622 664861
www.arribakent.biz

Production Operatives

Required for the fabrication of uPVC/aluminium window frames

Previous experience is required.

There is also the opportunity for NVQ training.

If you are looking for a challenging job role please phone (01843) 850500 and request an application form or send your CV to:

Ron Twyman at
Piper Windows
Hamelin Court, 140 Newington Road
Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP
or e-mail to ron@piperwindows.co.uk

PIPER FITS FIRST TIME

Deal Town Council is seeking an experienced and organised

Finance Officer

to be based in Deal Town Hall

The post holder will work a minimum of 18 hours per week with occasional evenings required for meetings.

The salary will be SCP 26, £22,221 pro rata.

Full details and an application form can be downloaded from the Deal Town Council website www.deal.gov.uk <http://www.deal.gov.uk>.

Alternatively contact the Town Clerk by telephone: 01304 361999
or by e-mail: deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk.
(Not available from 25 December 2009 until 4 January 2010).

Closing Date:
12 noon on Tuesday 12th January 2010

Interview Date: Likely to be 19/20 January 2010

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07717 803161 or johnnyd@citylocal.co.uk

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Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone

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Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019

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e-mail: **office@termtimeteachers.co.uk**

MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Further Education Sports Co-Ordinator Ref: PR029

Salary: £20,368 - £26,255 pro rata

15 hours per week (Medway and Maidstone Campus)

We are looking for an individual with a proven track record in Sports Development and the Further Education sector, to play a key role in increasing participation towards the 5 hour offer in sport and physical activity for young people aged 16-19yrs. This will entail the coordination and further development of the college's pathways and support, contributing to the development of the healthy college award and the cross-college activity programme, including outdoor pursuits and active leisure initiatives. As part of the Sports team, the ideal candidate will have excellent communication and leadership skills. Experience of working with young people and liaising with a wide range of organisations including schools within the three school sports partnerships, sports clubs and sports governing bodies is desirable.

Closing date: Friday 15 January 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · Positive About Disabled People · RBLI · Investor in People

Saint George's

Church of England School Humanities College

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 561536
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

Teaching Assistant (Behaviour)

KS3 Pts 7-11 £14,099 - £15,984
30 hours per week, 39 weeks per year
(Pro-Rata pay £9,646 - £10,936)

We are seeking an experienced Teaching Assistant to join our team. We are looking for someone who has:

- The ability to work constructively with young people and to manage challenging behaviour
- A patient, calm and positive approach
- The ability to apply firm and consistent boundaries

Saint George's C of E School is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, celebrating diversity and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.
Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk
or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 8 January 2010

ST CRISPIN'S CP INFANT SCHOOL

St Crispin's Road, Westgate CT8 8EB

We are looking to appoint a

SITE MANAGER

(FULL TIME)

Kent Scheme Pay Band 5 (Points 14-17)
Required from March 2010

The successful applicant will be multi-skilled and self-motivated.

Any appointment will be subject to full CRB check.

For a full job description and application form please call at the school to collect details or download from website www.st-crispinsinfants.org.uk.

School will be open from 5 January 2010.

Application to Headteacher, Mrs MP Kehoe, by 15 January 2010.

Interviews will take place on 22 January 2010.

SCIENCE TECHNICIAN REQUIRED

Pent Valley Technology College: 11-18 mixed 1400 pupils
Salary: Kent Scheme 3 (£14,099 – £15,984 pro rata per annum)
Hours: 37 hours a week, Term-time plus 10 days

The successful candidate will be joining a Science Department which is well resourced and has a strong team of Specialist Teachers. Your main responsibilities will include the preparation of practical lessons, record-keeping, ordering supplies, displaying class work, assisting the science teacher during lesson time, and where necessary, to help students with experiments. You will need to be suitably qualified and particularly able to support the teaching of physics including AS and A Level. You should be able to demonstrate a good basic knowledge and understanding of laboratory techniques and previous school experience would be an advantage.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

For more information and an application form please contact:
Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone,
Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218 Fax: 01303 279342
Closing Date: Monday 4th January 2010

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

PUBLIC NOTICES

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/02866/FL – 21 High Street Snodland Kent ME6 5AF – Royal Bank Of Scotland are applying for free standing roof edge protection. Reason: CA

TM/09/02988/FL – St Mary The Virgin Church Tumblefield Road Stansted Sevenoaks Kent – Rev Christopher Noble is applying for the construction of an extension to the south of the existing church building to provide accessible toilet facilities, meeting room, kitchenette and storage. Formation of new a new access to the extension through the base of the church tower. Reason: PROW DEPART LB CA

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB	Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
PROW	Application affects a Public Right of Way
DEPART	Application does not accord with the Development Plan

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 17 January 2010.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
27 December 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

09/03797/HOUSE	Matfield House The Green, Brenchley (LB) (CA) - Erection of an access ramp to east entrance
09/03956/FUL	Linden Park Cricket Club Fir Tree Road, Broadwater (CA) - Variation of condition 2 of TW/09/02884 - to extend hours of opening until 16.00 hours
09/03806/HOUSE	Dane Mead Waterloo Road, Cranbrook & Sissinghurst (CA) - Demolish two existing garages and replace with one Heritage-style open-fronted garage
09/03807/CAC	Dane Mead Waterloo Road, Cranbrook & Sissinghurst (CA) - Conservation Area Consent - Demolish two garages
09/03860/FUL	Trenley Oast Trenley Lane, Cranbrook & Sissinghurst (LB) - Conversion of ground floor into residential use and associated alterations to first floor and external envelope together with construction of new detached outbuilding, and change of use of agricultural land to garden
09/03894/LBC	Oast House Course Horn Lane, Cranbrook & Sissinghurst (LB) - Listed Building Consent: Minor refurbishment and remodelling of the existing oast house and garden
09/03940/FUL	Hazelden Farm Marden Road, Cranbrook & Sissinghurst (LB) - Construction of two electric service termination cabinets for EDF
09/03946/LBC	Hazelden Farm Marden Road, Cranbrook & Sissinghurst (LB) - Listed building consent - construction of two electric service termination cabinets for EDF
09/03872/HOUSE	Stable Cottage Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst (LB) - Replacement of single-storey double-glazed conservatory with single-storey extension
09/03874/LBC	Stable Cottage Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst (LB) - Listed Building Consent - Replacement of single-storey double-glazed conservatory with single-storey extension
09/03798/FUL	Holly Shaw Queens Road, Hawkhurst (CA) - Demolition of existing bungalow and garage. Closure of existing vehicular accesses; erection of 4 new dwellings and 4 new apartments with associated parking; creation of new vehicular and pedestrian access to Queens Road
09/03915/FUL	Grove Mills Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst (CA) - Insertion of Velux window into front roof to match existing
09/03420/LBC	Putlands Oast Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood (LB) - Replace existing timber framed, double glazed, casement windows and stable doors with new to match existing
09/03864/FUL	Creggans And The Old Gardens Dunorlan Park, Park (CA) - Demolition of Creggans and The Old Garden, and erection of 9 residential dwellings with associated parking, access and landscaping
09/03865/CAC	Creggans And The Old Gardens Dunorlan Park, Park (CA) - Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of Creggans and The Old Garden
09/03910/HOUSE	15 Camden Avenue Pembury, Pembury (CA) - Garage to be used for living accommodation and therapy room
09/03834/HOUSE	The Oast House Pennington Road, Southborough North (LB) (PROW) - Car port
09/03836/LBC	The Oast House Pennington Road, Southborough North (LB) - Listed Building Consent - Car port
09/03708/FULMJ	Medway Depot St James Road, St James (MAJOR) - Variation of Condition 23 of TW/08/02371/FULMJ relating to parking allocation

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 26 December 2009

Highways - District of Ashford

SILVER HILL ROAD, ASHFORD (TWO WAY) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order to make Silver Hill Road, Ashford two way from Lees Road to Abbey Way on or after 15 January 2010 for an estimated period of five nights or until such works are complete.

This is revoking The Kent County Council (Ashford) (Traffic Regulation) Order 1997 (Article 12) of Part D, item 43.

This order will come into force on Monday 11 January 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - District of Canterbury

BEKESBOURNE LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of cabling works on behalf of BT, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury, on or after 17 January 2010, for an estimated period of one day or until the works are complete.

There is no through access between Littlebourne Road and Bekesbourne Lane. The alternative route for through traffic will be Littlebourne Road, Canterbury Road, Bekesbourne Lane, Bekesbourne Hill and Bekesbourne Lane.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

RED LODGE ROAD, WILMINGTON (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Red Lodge Road, Wilmington between its junctions with Cameron Close and Vanessa Way.

The Order will become effective on 11th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 6 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Red Lodge Road, Tile Kiln Lane, Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood Road and Vanessa Way.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate footway resurfacing for the reason that there is insufficient road width

A206 CROSSWAYS BOULEVARD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (TEMPORARY SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on A206 Crossways Boulevard, Greenhithe as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 11th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 12 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

he purpose of the closure is to facilitate works in connection with the section 278 works for the ASDA store entrance

Schedule

Road Name:	**A206 Crossways Boulevard, Greenhithe**
Extent:	Between Station Road roundabout to Claire Causeway roundabout
Date:	11th January 2010 for 12 weeks Travelling east right hand lane will be closed

Road Name:	**A206 Crossways Boulevard, Greenhithe**
Extent:	Between Station Road roundabout to Claire Causeway roundabout
Date:	11th January 2010 for 12 weeks Travelling west right hand lane will be closed

Road Name:	**A206 Crossways Boulevard, Greenhithe**
Extent:	Between Station Road roundabout to Claire Causeway roundabout
Date:	11th January 2010 for 12 weeks 30mph speed restriction

Highways - Borough of Dartford & District of Sevenoaks

VARIOUS ROADS, DARENTH & SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads Darenth and South Darneth as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 11th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 17th January 2010 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the Dartford 10KM race

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Roman Villa Road**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Darenth Hill to Holmesdale Hill
Diversion:	No diversion – GLL marshals will be giving motorist's diversion advice

Road Name:	**Rabbits Road**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Shrubbery Road to Canada Farm Road
Diversion:	Shrubbery Road, Holmesdale Hill and St Margarets Road until 9.50am – East Hill, Devon Road, Cedar Drive, Main Road, Parsonage Lane and Darenth Hill after 9.50am

Road Name:	**Gills Road**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Holmesdale Hill to Green Street Green Road
Diversion:	Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage lane, Main Road and Devon Road

Road Name:	**Wilson Lane**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Gills Road to Rabbits Road
Diversion:	Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage lane, Main Road and Devon Road

Road Name:	**Canada Farm Road**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Three Gates Road to Green Street Green Road
Diversion:	Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage lane, Main Road and Devon Road

Road Name:	**NO ENTRY to St Margarets Road from Green Street Green Road**
Diversion:	Green Street Green Road, Darenth Hill, Parsonage lane, Main Road and Devon Road

Highways - District of Dover

A260 THE STREET, DENTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of urgent drainage repairs, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on the A260 The Street, Denton, between the junctions with Snode Hill and Agester Lane, on or after 11 January 2010. This is for an estimated period of up to three weeks, or until the works are complete. It is planned that the works will be carried out on weekdays only, with the road re-opened at weekends.

The signed suggested alternative route for through traffic will be via A260 Canterbury Road, Spitfire Way, Canterbury Road, A20 New Dover Road, Archcliffe Road, Limekiln Street, Snargate Street, Townwall Street, A2 Jubilee Way, A2 and A260 Canterbury Road.

HONEYWOOD ROAD AND HONEYWOOD PARKWAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Honeywood Road and Honeywood Parkway between the Whitfield Roundabout and Tesco Superstore on or after 11 January 2010 for an estimated period of twelve nights or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be in various phases as signed on site.

This order will come into force on Monday 11 January 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

BRUNSWICK STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Brunswick Street between Upper Stone Street and Orchard Street.

The Order will become effective on 17th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, works are planned to last for up to one day or until completed. Any further closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place. The dates for works will be notified on site 14 days in advance.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is for eastbound traffic via Upper Stone Street, George Street, Brunswick Street and for westbound traffic via Brunswick Street, Priory Road, Foster Street, Upper Stone Street.

Metro Traffic Management Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to install a tower crane. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is John McKeown on 01322 335595.

BUNCE COURT ROAD, OTTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bunce Court Road, Otterden between the junctions of Slade Road and Hurstwood Road on or after Monday 11th January 2010 for a period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is for eastbound traffic via Slade Road, Wyebanks Road, Hurstwood Road and for westbound traffic vice versa.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Steve Whitlock on 01233 714082.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

COPPINGS ROAD, LEIGH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Coppings Road, Leigh between its junctions with Scabharbour Road and Lower Street.

The Order will become effective on 11th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Coppings Road, Compasses Hill, Penshurst Road, B2027 High Street, B2027 Hildenborough Road, Rings Hill Hildenborough and Lower Street Hildenborough.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works.

Highways - District of Swale

BOUGHTON CHURCH ROAD, BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new water supply, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Boughton Church Road, Boughton under Blean, on or after 11 January 2010. This is for an estimated period of 3 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the junctions of Dane Court Road and North Lane. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Dane Court Road, Crouch Lane, Selling Road and South Street.

CHILTON AVENUE, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Chilton Avenue, Sittingbourne on or after 11 January 2010 for an estimated period of 12 weeks or until the works are complete. The closure will be in three phases, as shown below.

Extent:	Between the junctions with Bell Road and Millfield
Dates:	11 January 2010 for up to 3 weeks

Extent:	Between the junctions with Millfield and Fairview Road
Dates:	1 February 2010 for up to 3 weeks

Extent:	Between the junctions with Fairview Road and South Avenue
Dates:	22 February 2010 for up to 6 weeks

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Bell Road, Stanhope Avenue and South Avenue.

BRENLEY CORNER, BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS & PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of junction improvements and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order in respect of the A299 Thanet Way off-slip leading to Brenley Corner, Boughton under Blean and the A2 London Road, Graveney with Goodnestone. The Order takes effect on or after 11 January 2010, for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is:

(a) To prohibit traffic on the A299 Thanet Way off-slip leading to Brenley Corner, Boughton under Blean, for up to 9 consecutive weekday nights, on or after 11 January 2010.

The works are planned to be carried out each night between the hours of 8.00 pm and 6.00 am

The alternative route for through traffic will be via M2 Londonbound, Ashford Road off-slip, A251 Ashford Road, Ashford Road on-slip, M2 coastbound, M2 coastbound off-slip.

(b) To impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph at the following locations

(i) On the London bound carriageway of the A299 Thanet Way from a point approximately one mile north east of the junction with Brenley Corner

(ii) On both carriageways of the A2 London Road, Graveney with Goodnestone, for a distance of approximately 100 metres westwards from the Brenley Corner junction.

It should be noted that the Highways Agency are allowing London bound non-motorway traffic to use the M2 between Junctions 7 and Junction 6 whilst the slip road is closed, under a separate Traffic Order.

Highways - District of Thanet

HARBOUR STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new gas supply, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Harbour Street, Ramsgate, in the vicinity of number 37, on or after 11 January 2010. This is for an estimated period of 2 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Harbour Parade, Leopold Street and Queen Street.

There will be a suspension of the one way Traffic Order on Queen Street, between the junctions with Leopold Street and Harbour Street. During the closure, traffic needing to access Queen Street should do so via Leopold Street.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

PUTTENDEN ROAD, SHIPBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Puttenden Road approximately 10m north of public car park on or after Monday 11th January 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Claygate Lane, Reeds Lane, Back Lane and A227 Shipbourne Road and vice versa.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to lay a gas pipeline. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Stewart Boughtflower on 07827 308269.

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

MAIDSTONE ROAD, PEMBURY (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic traveling at any speed greater than 30mph in both directions on Maidstone Road, Pembury between the entrance of Downingbury Farm to a point on the road 50m north of that entrance on or after Monday 11th January 2010 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to lay a clean water pipeline. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Nicola Stone of Clancy Docwra on 01634 873290.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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New Citroën C3 merits a closer look than before

By **STEVE LOADER**

IT'S a small car, but the Citroën C3 launched on January 15 represents a big statement by the increasingly confident French marque.

The previous car was a pretty so-so affair wrapped in a visually friendly, even cuddly, egg-shaped design that evoked the brand's classic 2CV.

What that design did was to attract buyers who continually buy into French motoring chic without looking too hard at how the car drives or is screwed together.

It was cheap too, and usually available on almost silly deals.

But my job is to be nosey and I didn't like what I found; the old C3 was cramped inside, sloppy to drive and poorly made.

If Citroën hadn't put this right with the new car then it might have spelled bad news, just as superminis become even more popular as we all downsize our car choice in the interests of economy and the environment.

Fortunately though, the new car looks and feels much classier; better able to deliver a larger car feel for those who really are trading a family hatchback or something bigger in favour of this little five-door supermini.

The new C3 also feels like a more deserving sister to the impressive C5 that sits in the Ford Mondeo Class and to the premium DS series that we are promised – the DS3 Mini rival arrives later in 2010.

Our first drive in the new C3 came courtesy of the Wilmoths chain's site at Maidstone – now celebrating the first anniversary of its opening – where general sales manager Kelvin Clayton was quick to defend the old car yet promote its successor.

"You have got to remember that the original C3 came out seven years ago and things have moved fast in the industry and at Citroën, but it has been a good seller for us and will continue to offer value as a used buy," he said.

"But the new car takes us to a new level and we expect to do well with it, judging by the many inquiries we are getting ahead of the launch on the 15th."

The test car was an upmarket 1.4 Exclusive with a lively 95bhp VTi 16v petrol engine (£14,090), which wears its interior chroming and leather trimming well and also comes with auto climate and cruise controls.

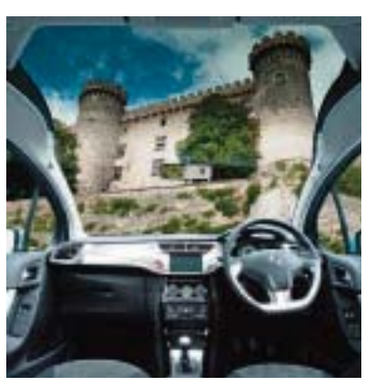
It has the eye-catching Zenith panoramic front screen too that is set to become the new C3's trademark; this is standard on all but the VT entry model (from £10,790) and comes with a neat pull down interior 'roof' and sun visors.

It brings a marvellous and stylish luxury touch to the C3 range and defines its more upmarket stance compared to its predecessor.

There is little disappointment on the move either; the car has a far better balance of ride comfort and handling, and the 1.4 engine is well-suited to the car though there are 1.1 and 1.6-litre petrol alternatives, plus 1.4 and 1.6 diesels.

Citroën will also introduce a miserly road tax exempt 1.6 diesel version using its ultra-eco Airdream sub-branding in March and priced at an attractive £14,490.

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CITROËN C2

CITROËN FINANCIAL SERVICES ELECT 3 — Model shown: CITROËN C2 1.6i 16V 125HP VTS £12595†

CITROËN C2 1.4HDi 70hp Diesel VTR		9.9% APR typical♦	
Per month only	£167.57	Deposit (scrappage vehicle)	£3,850.00
Number of payments	36	Optional final payment	£3,856.00
MRR OTR price* (includes compulsory £120 roadside assistance)	£11,965.00	Amount of credit	£8115.00
		Agreed annual mileage (excess mileage charges apply)	6000
Total amount payable including optional final payment	£13,738.52	Excess mileage charge per mile	2.22p

CITROËN C3

CITROËN FINANCIAL SERVICES ELECT 3 — Model shown: CITROËN C3 Exclusive £XX,XXX†

CITROËN C3 1.4i 8V 75hp VTR		9.9% APR typical♦	
Per month only	£200.00	Deposit	£3,000.00
Number of payments	36	Optional final payment	£3,772.00
MRR OTR price* (includes compulsory £120 roadside assistance)	£12,065.00	Amount of credit	£9,065.00
		Agreed annual mileage (excess mileage charges apply)	6000
Total amount payable including optional final payment	£13,972.00	Excess mileage charge per mile	1.83p

CITROËN prefers TOTAL

As the Scrappage scheme comes to an end, Wilmoths Citroën Kent are offering **NO cash deposit** on Elect 3 with a qualifying Scrappage Scheme part exchange in December 2009

CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE

CITROËN

*ON THE ROAD RECOMMENDED PRICES AND OFFERS APPLY TO RETAIL SALES OF QUALIFYING NEW CITROËN VEHICLES ORDERED AND REGISTERED 01/10/09 – 31/12/09 AND INCLUDE VAT, DELIVERY TO DEALER AND NUMBER PLATES, GOVERNMENT FIRST REGISTRATION FEE, AND 12 MONTHS' GRADUATED VEHICLE EXCISE DUTY. BLACK/METALLIC PAINT OPTIONAL AT EXTRA COST. ♦FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM CITROËN FINANCIAL SERVICES, QUADRANT HOUSE, PRINCESS WAY, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 1QA, UK. OVER 18S ONLY. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. OFFERS, PRICES AND SPECIFICATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS FROM PARTICIPATING DEALERS. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. PLEASE ASK US FOR DETAILS. ALL MODELS SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY. FINANCE OFFERS APPLY TO UK ONLY. ALL MODELS SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY. FINANCE OFFERS APPLY TO UK ONLY. †ON THE ROAD RECOMMENDED PRICES AND OFFERS APPLY TO RETAIL SALES OF QUALIFYING NEW CITROËN VEHICLES ORDERED AND REGISTERED 01/10/09–31/12/09 AND INCLUDE VAT, DELIVERY TO DEALER AND NUMBER PLATES, GOVERNMENT FIRST REGISTRATION FEE, AND 12 MONTHS' GRADUATED VEHICLE EXCISE DUTY. BLACK/METALLIC PAINT OPTIONAL AT EXTRA COST. PRICES SHOWN INCLUDE THE DEDUCTION OF THE APPROPRIATE MANUFACTURER'S MODEL CASHBACK FROM THE MANUFACTURER'S ON THE ROAD RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICES. FROM PRICES SHOWN: Model shown: CITROËN C2 1.6i 16V 125HP VTS £12595 AND CITROËN C3 EXCLUSIVE £XX,XXX.

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES(RANGE): URBAN CYCLE, EXTRA URBAN, COMBINED (LITRES PER 100KM/MPG) & CO2 EMISSIONS (G/KM); HIGHEST: CITROËN C3 1.6i 16V 110HP AUTO 10.1/28.0, 5.5/51.4, 7.2/39.2, 172. LOWEST: CITROËN C2 1.4HDi 8V 70HP 5.3/53.3, 3.7/76.3, 4.3 /65.7, 113.

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08 08 IBIZA 1.4 TDi Ecomotive 3dr, Grey, air con, 33,650m - Nil R/Fund license	£7,995
09 58 NEW IBIZA 1.4 SE 5dr, Track Grey, air con, cruise control, PDC, 1,800m -	£9,995

LEON

08 57 LEON 1.9 TDi SPORT LE , Black, air con, Bluetooth, PDC, 33,000m	£10,495
07 07 LEON 1.9 TDi Stylance 5dr, Grey, climate, 20,000m	£10,495
08 08 LEON 2.0 TDi Stylance 5dr, Blue, Bluetooth, i-pod connection, 21,000m	£12,495
08 58 LEON 1.9 TDi Stylance 5dr, Zenith Grey, climate/cruise control, 13,310m	£12,495
07 57 LEON 2.0 TDi Sport DSG Auto, Red, Winter pack, 17,500m	£12,495
08 58 LEON 2.0 TDi DPF FR 5dr, Black Magic, climate, fog lights, 7,100m	£14,895
09 58 LEON 2.0 T FSi CUPRA 5dr, Speed Blue, Black Cupra interior, 6,650m	£17,295

ALTEA

08 58 ALTEA Freetrack 4 2.0 TDi 5dr MPV, Silver, cloth/leather,6,900m	£12,995
09 09 ALTEA XL 1.8 TSi Stylance 5dr MPV, Black Magic, tinted glass, 5,000m	£12,995

EXEO

09 09 EXEO 2.0 TDi SE Saloon, Black Magic, Bluetooth, CD/MP3, 8,000m	£14,995
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CITROËN USED VEHICLES

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09 09 1.4 HDi Rhythm 5dr Diesel Hatch, Carnelite Grey, 6,000m.....£7,795
09 09 1.4 HDi Rhythm 5dr Diesel Hatch, Scarlet Red, 6,000m.....£7,995

C2

05 05 1.4i Design 3dr Hatch, Poseidon Blue, 42,415m..... £4,795

C3

06 06 1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch, Special Edition, Tuscan Blue, 41,372m.... £5,745
05 55 1.4i Desire 5dr Hatch, Special Edition, Iron Grey, 40,078m.....£5,995
05 05 1.4 HDi 16v Exclusive 5dr Diesel Hatch, Oriental Blue, 39,645m £6,245
06 06 1.6i 16v SX 5dr Hatch Auto, Arctic Steel, 15,859m.....£6,745
06 56 1.4i SX 5dr Hatch, Iron Grey, 20,850m..... £6,995
08 08 1.4i Cachet 5dr Hatch, Special Edition, Passion Red, 11,300m.... £7,995

C3 Picasso

09 09 1.4 VTi 16v VTR+ 5dr Estate, Arctic Steel, 6,000m..... £9,995
09 09 1.6 HDi 16v Exclusive 5dr Diesel Estate, Bitter Lemon, 6,000m.£11,995
09 09 1.4 VTi 16v Exclusive 5dr Estate, Cherry Red, 6,000m.....£12,495

C4

06 06 1.6 HDi SX 5dr Diesel Hatch, Green, 32,100m..... £7,495
06 56 1.6 HDi Cool 5dr Hatch, Spec Edition, Thorium Grey, 50,350m.... £7,795
06 56 1.6 HDi Cool 5dr Hatch, Special Edition, Grey, 50,350m.....£7,795
06 06 1.6 SX 5dr Hatch Auto, Arctic Steel, 20,396m.....£7,995
06 06 1.6i SX 5dr Auto Hatch, Arctic Steel, 20,396m£7,995
07 07 1.6i 16V SX 5dr Auto Hatch, Wicked Red, 12,000m£8,495
07 57 1.6 HDi Cool 5dr Hatch Special Edition, Arctic Steel, 19,044m.....£8,995
09 09 1.6 HDi VTR Plus 5dr Diesel Coupe, Polar White, 15,000m..... £11,995
08 58 1.6 HDi VTR Plus 5dr EGS Diesel Hatch, Wicked Red, 9,000m....£12,995

C4 Grand Picasso

08 08 1.8i VTR Plus 5dr Estate, Icare, 10,000m..... £11,995
07 56 1.6 HDi VTR Plus 5dr Diesel Estate, Wicked Red, 33,000m.....£12,495
07 07 1.6 HDi VTR Plus Grand Estate, Icare, 24,850m.....£13,795
07 57 2.0 HDi VTR Plus 5dr EGS Diesel Estate, Burlat, 12,000m.....£14,995
08 08 2.0 HDi Exclusive 5dr EGS Diesel Estate, Icare, 11,400m..... £16,795

C4 Picasso

07 07 1.8 VTR Plus 5dr Estate, Tivoli Blue, 13,754m.....£10,995
07 57 2.0 HDi VTR Plus 5dr EGS Diesel Estate, Anodised Gold.....£14,495

Xsara Picasso

05 05 1.8 Desire Estate, Sahara Gold, 46,007m..... £6,495
06 56 1.6i HDi 92 Exclusive Diesel Estate, Iron Grey, 34,905m..... £6,995
06 06 1.6 HDi 92 Exclusive Diesel Estate, Black, 21,150m..... £8,695
07 57 1.6 HDi 92 VTX 5dr Diesel Estate, Icare, 18,745m..... £9,795

C5

09 58 2.0 HDi VTR+ 4dr Auto Diesel Saloon, Blue, 24,427m..... £13,995
09 58 2.0 HDi VTR+ 4dr Diesel Saloon, Storm Grey, 5,265m..... £14,495
08 58 2.0 HDi VTR+ 5dr Diesel Tourer, Bourrasque Blue, 15,556m.... £14,495

Berlingo

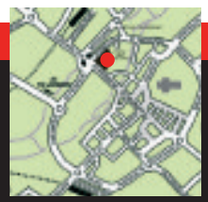
09 09 1.6 HDi LX Berlingo 75ps L1 Diesel, Arctic Steel, 4,500m....£9,000 + VAT

Enterprise

09 09 1.4i HDi 70bhp Van Enterprise Diesel, White, 2,000m..... £6,600 + VAT


Picture for illustration only

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Sporty MPV now gets even better

NEW Year changes for the sporty Mazda5 MPV take effect from January 1.

An all-new line-up brings upgraded kit and a new line-up, with more easily identifiable Takara and Furano models replacing the previous TS2 and Sport.

The Zoom-Zoom brand's people carrier manages to be both good to drive and versatile with sliding rear doors and easy-folding seating for seven at a pinch – perch number seven is more an occasional rather than full-size seat.

However, the overhaul does disguise a price hike of nearly £1,000 for the four petrol and two diesel engine models – which now start from £17,150 and £19,555 respectively.

Dartford-based Mazda UK's sales and marketing director Mark Cameron said: "Our market research confirms the majority of Mazda5 owners are 35 to 45-year-old professionals with young families who enjoy a busy lifestyle and I'm sure they will find the new Takara and Furano models for 2010 especially attractive."





Revitalised brand shows its 'Claus' for Christmas

IF THE kids in your household thought the gent in red was unusually prompt this Christmas then it was probably down to Jaguar.

Apparently, the sporting brand's team of designers worked alongside Santa's little helpers to produce this 21st century sleigh, also enabling Rudolph – pictured here helmeted in the other cockpit – to have a bit of a rest and speed up prezzie deliveries.

All joking aside, this lovely bit of fantasy highlights confidence levels at the resurgent marque, which laboured so long with the expectation to keep churning out variations of its 1960s XJ6 design.

The quite brilliant mid-size 'new Jaguar' XF model and its well-deserved sales changed all that and heralded a radically different XJ saloon for the New Year.

Sadly, there is no place in the company's production plans for the new-look Santa Claus Sleigh though.

Swift update for January

SUZUKI has overhauled the line-up of its popular Swift supermini for 2010.

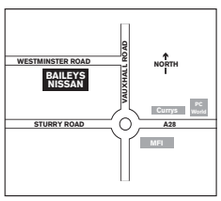
Starting in January, customers will have a wider choice of models, while prices still start from an affordable £9,190.

The new grades are SZ2, SZ3 and SZ4 – this gets auto air con and alloy wheels as standard – and the popular 1.3-litre petrol and 1.3-litre diesel engines are carried over, but the 1.5-litre petrol model is now available only with automatic transmission.

The excellent 1.6-litre Swift Sport performance model continues as before.







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*Business Users only. Offers available at participating dealers only. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Information correct at time of going to press. Refer to dealer for exact specification. All prices exclude VAT. Contract hire finance is available subject to status and conditions on eligible new vehicles. Finance proposals must be submitted to RCI Financial Services Ltd by 31st December 2009 with registration of the vehicle(s) within 30 days of the proposal date. Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. Written quotations available from RCI Financial Services Ltd, PO Box 495, Watford WD17 1FJ. Prices and information correct at time of going to print. Examples based on 3+35 finance profile. All examples allow for 10,000 miles per annum on a non-maintenance contract. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition. Excess mileage charged at 5p per mile (plus VAT), contact dealer for details. All offers are strictly subject to availability. NV200 shown has optional metallic paint at £350 excluding VAT, and features optional wheel trims at £80 per set excluding VAT. Offer shown is not available in conjunction with any other schemes or offers. Models subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 9YS.

Focus on a true star

by STEVE LOADER

IT COMES as no surprise that Ford's perennially best-selling Focus has been judged most popular car of the decade by an AutoTrader poll.

Two other Fords – the Fiesta supermini and Mondeo family model – also came high in the 'Noughties' list along with the BMW 3-Series compact executive car, while sat nav topped the list of favourite optional 'extras' for the decade.

Other award winners were: most 'value for money' car – Fiat Panda; most 'green' car – Toyota Prius; most 'beyond your wildest dreams' car and most 'overpriced' car – Bugatti Veyron; and biggest 'celebrity-mobile' car – Range Rover.

Meanwhile, used car price guide CAP was reviewing the best used buys of the decade and also placed the Focus top of the deck, though specifying the 1998-2005 version.

Other honours were awarded to the following:

- Small used car of the decade: Ford Ka 1996-2008
- Large used family car of the decade: Volkswagen Passat 1996-2005
- Executive used car of the decade: Audi A3 2003-08
- Luxury used car of the decade: BMW X5 2000-06
- Most improved used car brand of the decade: Seat

But the Focus was overall winner and judges' chairman Mark Norman explained: "The Focus shook up a conservative small family car sector in which the only truly desirable car had, for a long time, been the Volkswagen Golf.



IT LOOKS increasingly likely the motor industry will lose one of its most innovative and respected brands early in 2010, when Saab starts to close down.

This follows abortive takeover talks between Dutch supercar maker Spyker and Saab owner General Motors (GM) and an earlier proposed tie-up between Saab and another supercar name Koenigsegg – another Swedish company.

Unless GM can find a buyer at the 11th-hour it will begin to shut down Saab plants, also closing the book on a brand known for thinking outside the box, notably by pushing front-wheel drive and turbocharging.

In its heyday Saabs were known for durability and safety, but recent years have seen its products become thinly disguised GM clones.

"The introduction of the Focus was also a truly brave move by Ford.

"In reinventing their offering to that core sector Ford chose to drop the 'Escort' name, a brand which was woven into the fabric of British motoring.

"Instead of simply re-vamping this trusted name, Ford began with a blank sheet and created a new vehicle completely from scratch.

"Every aspect of the car was different from its predecessor, from the radical external styling to the new 'command' driving position.

"Careful thought went into every element in the new design, covering performance, comfort, safety and even security.

"And the legacy of the Ford Focus has been lasting. It is a vehicle whose design and execution has informed everything that followed.

"Other manufacturers are still bringing new cars to market today which clearly take cues and inspiration from the Focus even 12 years after its launch."



Freelander turns into macho Sport

NO DOUBT inspired by the success of the Range Rover Sport, Land Rover has launched an overtly macho version of the smaller Freelander.

Hardly surprisingly, it is called Freelander 2 Sport and has in-yer-face 19-inch alloys, rear spoiler and unique and muted two-tone 'Ebony and Storm' interior

On sale from January priced from £26,695, it will also be available in just two colours – Santorini Black and Lago Grey. The model comes with the powerful and economical 2.2-litre TD4 diesel engine previously reviewed favourably here and featured in our video report at www.carsforkent.co.uk Motors TV.

The manual version comes with Stop/Start technology delivering an eight per cent improvement on CO2 emissions compared to the previous manual diesel Freelander 2 – down from 194g/km to 179g/km – and combined fuel consumption is down from 37.7 to 42.2mpg.

The newcomer will also be joined by new entry level Freelander 2 'White & Black' Special Editions priced from £19,495 and going on sale at the same time.

As you may gather, these are available in Alaska White and Santorini Black and also come with the same six-speed manual 2.2-litre diesel powertrain and Stop/Start technology as the Sport.

The Freelander 2 is Land Rover's best-seller.



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2006 Ford Ka
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2003 Vauxhall Astra BERTONE
2002 Ford Focus ST
2000 Shogun GLS LWB
2003 Ford Focus TDCi
1984 Porsche 944
2005 Renault Megane Dynamique
1996 Land Rover Defender County
2005 Mazda 2
2001 Clio Expression
2002 Mercedes CLK
2002 Rover 75
2006 Volvo XC90 D5 SE
2002 BMW 320 d SE
2003 Mazda MX-5
2000 Mazda MX-5
2004 Saab 9-3 Vector 150 bhp
2002 Saab 9-5 Vector Arc Auto
1983 Mercedes 280 Coupe
2001 Peugeot 306 Meridian
2003 Renault Clio 1.2
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1999 Jaguar S-Type
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2004 Nissan Almera
2001 Peugeot 307 Auto

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06/06 FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI 100 5HA 5DR METALLIC MIDNIGHT SILVER, 87000 MILES,	£8999	£8499	£1000
06/06 FORD FOCUS ESTATE 1.6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO CLIMATE BLACK, 48000 MILES, SAT NAV,	£10499	£9999	£2500
06/56 FORD FOCUS 1.6i ZETEC 5DR AUTO CLIMATE SILVER, 32000 MILES, SAT NAV,	£12499	£11999	£1500
08/57 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE ESTATE 1.6i DURATEC 100 PS 5 SILVER, 61400 MILES, SAT NAV	£7999	£6999	£1000
06/06 FORD FOCUS SALOON 1.6 HDi 110 5DR SILVER, 73500 MILES, SAT NAV	£7499	£6499	£1000
06/56 FORD FOCUS ESTATE 1.6 LX 5DR AUTO TANGO, 91000 MILES, SAT NAV	£7499	£6499	£1000
06/56 FORD FOCUS 1.6i LX 5DR AUTO SILVER, 71406 MILES,	£6999	£6299	£700
06/06 FORD FOCUS 1.8 ZETEC 5DR CLIMATE METALLIC BLUE, 90400 MILES, SAT NAV	£6999	£6499	£500
07/07 FORD FOCUS 1.6i ZETEC 5DR CLIMATE TANGO, 63,000 MILES, SAT NAV	£7499	£6499	£1000
06/56 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 2.0 5HA 5DR AUTO SILVER, 30 000 MILES,	£9999	£8999	£1000
06/56 FORD FOCUS C-MAX ESTATE 1.6i ZETEC 5DR TANGO, 57000 MILES, SAT NAV	£7499	£6899	£600
06/06 FORD FOCUS C-MAX ESTATE 2.0 ZETEC 5DR AUTO BLACK, 26800 MILES, SAT NAV,	£7999	£6999	£1000
07/07 FORD FOCUS 1.8 ZETEC 5DR CLIMATE 5SP4 GREY, 47000 MILES, SAT NAV,	£8999	£6999	£2000
07/07 FORD FOCUS 1.8 ZETEC 5DR CLIMATE 5SP4 GREY, 47000 MILES, SAT NAV,	£7999	£6999	£1000
07/07 FORD FOCUS 1.6i SPORT 5DR METALLIC BLUE, 43000 MILES,	£7999	£6999	£1000
07/57 FORD FOCUS DIESEL 1.6 TDCI STYLE 5DR SILVER, 46600 MILES,	£7499	£6999	£700
08/08 FORD FOCUS 1.6i 5HA 5DR AUTO SILVER, 36000 MILES,	£8499	£7999	£1000
08/08 FORD FOCUS 1.6i ZETEC 5DR CLIMATE SILVER, 43420 MILES,	£8499	£7999	£700
08/08 FORD FOCUS PETROL 3D TDC CLIMATE 5 DR 1.4 DURATEC 5FA GREY, 47000 MILES, SAT NAV	£8999	£7799	£1200
07/07 FORD FOCUS 1.6i 5HA 5DR SILVER, 32000 MILES,	£8999	£7799	£1000
07/07 FORD FOCUS DIESEL 1.6 TDCI ZETEC 5DR CLIMATE GREY, 49000 MILES, SAT NAV	£7499	£6999	£500
08/08 FORD FOCUS 1.6i STYLE AUTO 5DR METALLIC PANTHER BLACK, 49000 MILES,	£8999	£7999	£1000
08/58 FORD FOCUS 1.6i STYLE 5DR BLACK, 17000 MILES,	£10999	£9699	£1300
08/58 FORD FOCUS PETROL STYLE 5 DR AUTO 1.6i DURATEC 16V DESIGN BLUE METALLIC, 14200 MILES, SAT NAV	£11999	£9999	£2000
08/08 FORD FOCUS STYLE 5 DR 1.6 DURATEC 100 PS 5 METALLIC BLUE, 14400 MILES, SAT NAV	£11999	£9999	£2000
08/58 FORD FOCUS 1.6i ZETEC 5DR METALLIC MIDNIGHT SILVER, 37000 MILES,	£10999	£9999	£1000
08/58 FORD FOCUS DIESEL 1.6 TDCI ZETEC 5DR METALLIC SILK GREY, 37000 MILES,	£10499	£9999	£500
08/08 FORD FOCUS DIESEL 1.6 TDCI STYLE 5DR METALLIC BLUE, 72000 MILES,	£11999	£10499	£1500
08/08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DR 1.6 DURATEC OCEAN BLUE METALLIC, 14000 MILES, SAT NAV	£11499	£10999	£1500

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08/58 FORD FOCUS 1.6i TDCI TITANIUM 5VA 5HO SILVER	£13999	£12999	£1000
08/58 FORD FOCUS 2.0 (S) TDC TDCI POWERSHIFT AUTO 5DR MOONDUST SILVER	£13999	£12999	£1000
08/58 FORD FIESTA 3D TDC CLIMATE 5 DR 1.25 DURATEC 16V MOONDUST SILVER METALLIC, 39000 MILES,	£7999	£6999	£1000
99/50 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC 3DR CLIMATE METALLIC AQUARIUS BLUE, 26300 MILES,	£6899	£5999	£900
06/56 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC 3DR CLIMATE RED, 35000 MILES,	£6499	£5699	£800
07/57 FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE 5DR CLIMATE SILVER, 43000 MILES,	£6999	£5999	£1000
06/56 FORD FIESTA 1.4 STYLE 5DR CLIMATE SILVER, 43000 MILES,	£6999	£5999	£1000
07/57 FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE 5DR TANGO RED,	£6999	£5999	£1000
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08/08 FORD FIESTA 1.25 STUDIO 5DR HIGH GLOSS, 13000 MILES, SAT NAV	£7699	£6999	£700
08/57 FORD FIESTA 3D TDC CLIMATE 5 DR 1.25 DURATEC 16V MOONDUST SILVER METALLIC, 47 000 MILES,	£7999	£6999	£1000
08/08 FORD FIESTA 1.25 STUDIO 5DR METALLIC BLUE, 17000 MILES,	£7899	£6999	£900
07/07 FORD FIESTA 1.6 ghia 5DR PANTHER BLACK	£7999	£6999	£1000
09/09 FORD FIESTA STYLE + 5 DR 1.25 EDPS 5DRM PANTHER BLACK METALLIC, 2200 MILES,	£10629	£9329	£1300
08/08 FORD FIESTA 1.4 STYLE + 5DR METALLIC PANTHER BLACK, 19000 MILES,	£10629	£9329	£1300
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08/08 FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE PLUS 5DR 5000 MILES,	£10999	£9999	£1000
08/08 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI STYLE PLUS 5DR PANTHER BLACK	£10999	£9999	£1000
08/58 FORD FIESTA DIESEL 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 3DR METALLIC PANTHER BLACK, 4100 MILES, SAT NAV	£12999	£10999	£2000
08/58 FORD MONDEO 2.0 VB TITANIUM 5 DOOR METALLIC BLUE, 47900 MILES, SAT NAV	£6799	£5999	£800
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08/58 FORD MONDEO DIESEL 1.8 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR METALLIC PANTHER BLACK, 29600 MILES,	£13999	£12999	£1000

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06/06 FORD FUSION ESTATE 1.4 ZETEC 5DR CLIMATE ORANGE, 38200 MILES, SAT NAV	£8999	£8099	£1400
06/06 FORD FUSION ESTATE 1.4 ZETEC 5DR AUTO CLIMATE SILVER METAL, 37700 MILES,	£8999	£8299	£700
06/06 FORD FUSION DIESEL ESTATE 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR CLIMATE TANGO, 19900 MILES, SAT NAV	£7999	£7299	£1200
07/07 FORD GALAXY 2.0 TDCI 5HA 5DR HH BLUE	£13099	£12299	£1000
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08/08 FORD C-MAX DIESEL ESTATE 1.8 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR SILVER, 54KLES,	£11999	£10999	£1000
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07/07 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6i 16V DESIGN 5DR METALLIC STAR SILVER, 59600 MILES,	£7999	£7299	£700
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Models illustrated: MY10 Zafira Active Plus, Corsa SXi, Astra 3dr Active Plus and Astra 5dr Active Plus. *A customer saving will be applied to the RRP (including delivery, but excluding any factory fitted options or accessories) and is equivalent to the current rate of VAT at 15%. VAT is still applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. Offer available to private individuals. All other sales categories are excluded. Offer is not available in conjunction with the Government Scrappage Scheme. Offer applies to selected new vehicles ordered between 04.12.09 and 31.12.09 and registered by 31.12.09. Offer applies to selected Retailer stock only and is not available in conjunction with any other offer. Saving shown of over £4,260 relates to the customer saving of £4,261.96 on an Insignia Sports Tourer VXR NAV model. (Vaux85568)

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AGILA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2005	55	Agila Expression	1.0	5	Star silver	24,800	3,695
2008	58	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Steel Silver	4,385	7,995
2009	09	Agila Design Auto	1.2	5	Sugar white	2,290	9,695
2009	09	Agila Design	1.2	5	Lemon grass	4,150	8,995
2009	09	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta blue	6,230	9,995
2009	09	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	5,210	9,995
2009	09	Agila Design	1.2	5	Moroccan blue	2,375	8,295
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta Blue	Del mileage	£10,995
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Sugar white	Del mileage	£10,995

ASTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	06	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Black sapphire	22,675	7,995
2006	56	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Panacotta	21,950	8,995
2006	56	Astra Active	1.6	5	Silver lightening	36,800	7,495
2007	57	Astra Sri Ex Pack	1.8	5	Black sapphire	26,000	9,495
2007	57	Astra Design Auto	1.8	5	Moonland	7,825	9,495
2008	08	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	15,890	9,495
2008	08	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.4	3	Flame red	11,225	10,495
2008	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Green spirit	3,725	10,495
2008	58	Astra Sri X Pack	1.8	3	Black sapphire	5,960	12,495
2008	58	Astra Sri TBO X Pack	1.6	3	Metro blue	8,300	12,995
2009	09	Astra Breeze Plus	1.6	5	Metro blue	5,950	9,995
2009	09	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Metro blue	4,720	10,895
2009	09	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Silver lightening	7,190	10,845
2009	09	Astra Breeze Sports hatch	1.7D	3	Black sapphire	6,250	11,695
2009	09	Astra Sxi	1.4	5	Flame red	2,500	9,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi Sports Hatch	1.6	3	Sovereign silver	Del mileage	£13,695
2009	58	Astra Sxi	1.4	5	Technical grey	Del mileage	£12,995
2009	59	Astra Life A/c	1.6	5	Metro blue	Del mileage	£12,495
2009	59	Astra Active	1.4	5	Black sapphire	Del mileage	£12,295
2009	59	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	Del mileage	£13,495
2009	59	Astra Sxi Sport hatch	1.6	3	Technical grey	Del mileage	£13,695

CORSA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2000	X	Corsa Comfort Auto	1.4	3	Star silver	69,325	2,995
2006	56	Corsa Design	1.4	5	Silver lightening	39,050	5,995
2007	57	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Air blue	21,575	7,495
2007	57	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Air blue	25800	8,495
2008	57	Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	14,950	12,995
2008	08	Corsa Breeze	1.2	3	Star silver	12,220	7,995
2008	58	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/c	1.3	5	Silver lightening	12775	9,495
2008	58	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3	3	Metro blue	6,425	9,495
2009	58	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	5	Metro blue	11,390	8,995
2008	58	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	5	Black sapphire	7,070	9,295
2009	09	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/C	1.3	3	Black sapphire	9,670	9,650
2009	09	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/c	1.3	3	Flame red	9,270	9,650
2009	09	Corsa Active	1.2	5	Silver lightening	6,520	8,995
2009	09	Corsa Sxi	1.2	3	Black sapphire	6,236	9,495
2009	09	Corsa Design In Touch	1.2	3	Black sapphire	3,380	9,495
2009	59	Corsa Active CDTi	1.3D	3	Black sapphire	Del mileage	£9,995
2009	59	Corsa Active CDTi	1.3D	3	Metro blue	Del mileage	£9,995
2009	59	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	3	Star silver	Del mileage	£10,595
2009	59	Corsa Life A/c CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	Del mileage	£10,895

INSIGNIA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Signum Elite CDTi	1.9D	5	Misty grey	51,685	8,995
2009	58	Insignia Elite Auto Nav	2.0	5	Star silver	6,300	19,995
2009	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusiv (160)	1.9D	5	Panacotta	12,000	16,995
2009	09	Insignia Elite CDTi Auto (160)	1.9D	4	Black sapphire	8,250	22995
2009	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusiv (160)	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	5,925	17,495

MERIVA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Meriva Life A/C	1.4	5	Steel blue	19,730	6,995
2007	57	Meriva Design CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	34,950	8,995
2008	58	Meriva CDTi Breeze Plus	1.3	5	Black sapphire	10,930	9,995
2009	09	Meriva Active CDTi	1.3D	5	Ultra blue	8,750	10,695

TIGRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	06	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Air blue	30,500	8,995

VECTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	06	Vectra elite CDTi (150)	1.9D	5	Black Sapphire	38,125	8,995
2007	07	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	19,350	8,995
2008	58	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	15,390	9,495

ZAFIRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2004	54*	Zafira Design DTi	2.0D	5	Prestige blue	67,850	5,495
2005	05*	Zafira Design CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	66,000	7,795
2006	56	Zafira Club	1.6	5	Metro blue	40,250	7,995
2006	56	Zafira Club Auto	1.8	5	Silver lightening	12,120	8,495
2009	09	Zafira Sri XP CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	3,780	17,995

OTHER MAKES

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2005	55*	Ford Focus Zetec	1.6	5	Metallic grey	53,050	6,295

*Non Network Q

All mileages are approximate, as vehicles are still in use at the present time

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05 (55) Octavia L+K TDi DSG Auto Red PAS ABS FSH One Owner, 55,000 miles **£8995**
08 (08) Fabia 1.2 One Red PAS ABS A.C reverse camera, FSH, 57,000 miles . **£7195**

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07 (57) Siron 1.0S Mint Blue, PAS, AB,S A/C, One owner, FSH, 15,100 miles... **£6495**
05 (55) Sirion 1.3 SE Green, PAS, ABS Alloys A/C Twin Airbags 1 Owner , 11,000 miles. **£5995**
97 (R) Hi Jet 1.0 Grey, 6 Seater 61,000 miles **£1595**
05 (05) Serion 1.3 SE Green PAS ABS Alloy FSH, 17,000 miles **£5695**

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08 (58) Gen-2 1.6 GSX LP6 Passion Blue PAS Leather Int Ex Demo 3,000 miles.. **£8995**
07 (57) Gen-2 1.6 GLS Passion Blue PAS ABS A/C Ex Demo 3,000 miles... **£6995**
06 (06) Gen-2 GLS Auto Black PAS ABS Leather Int one Owner FSH 3,000 miles... **£5295**
06 (05) Gen-2 1.6 Blue, PAS, ABS, Alloys, One Owner FSH 15,000 miles... **£4995**
07 (07) Savvy Style Auto 1.2 Silver, PAS ABS A/C One Owner FSH 19,000 miles.... **£4995**

OTHER MAKES

03 (53) Smart City Passion Auto Silver One Owner 10,000 miles **£4695**
05 (55) Suzuki 1.3 GL Met Grey, PAS Roof Rails, Alloys, FSH, One Owner 31,000 miles.. **£3995**
02 (02) Vauxhall Agila 1.2 Red PAS 78,000 miles **£2395**
02 (52) Peugeot 206 xsi 3 Dr, Blue, PAS ABS A/C, 38,000 miles **£3995**
09 (09) Hyundai 120 5 Dr, Hatch, Grey Metallic, PAS ABS A/C, One Owner 3,700 miles . **£8995**
06 (56) Hyundai Getz 1.1 Atlantic, PAS ABS A/C, 22000 miles One owner **£4995**
56 (06) Kia Picanto Zip Red, PAS, ABS Sun Roof 21,000 miles **£4595**
03 (03) Rover 2Si Blue, 5 Dr PAS, A/C , 47,000 miles..... **£2395**

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ALFA ROMEO

147, 1.6 TS LUSSO, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, beige metallic, 38061 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, JTDm Ducati Corse Q2 Special Edition, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, carbonio black metallic, 5000 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, TS Lusso, 2006, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey, 12679 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, 1.9 JTDm 16v DUCATI CORSE Q2, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 10200 miles, £14700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, 1.6 TS LUSSO, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, beige metallic, 38061 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

147, JTDm Ducati Corse Q2 Special Edition, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering traction 5000 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

TACUMA, 5, la07ryu, insurance group 10 abs air conditioning alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking roof rails side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment 1 owner service history, star silver, 9000 miles, £4283, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 5, la07ryu, insurance group 10 abs air conditioning alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking roof rails side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment 1 owner service history, star silver, 9000 miles, £4283, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 5, pk55ldx, insurance group 10 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows opal grey, 13000 miles, £3483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 5, pk55ldx, insurance group 10 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag , opal grey, 13000 miles, £3483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 5, la07ryu, insurance group 10 abs air conditioning alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking roof rails side airbags , star silver, 9000 miles, £4283, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 5, pk55ldx, insurance group 10 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking roof rails side airbags , opal grey, 13000 miles, £3483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

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TACUMA, SX, de55 lju, air conditioning, power steering, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, abs, twin air bags, cd player, radio, front fog lamps, black, 27600 miles, £3995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

CROSSFIRE, V6, cx04 gue, air conditioning, full leather, electric seats, heated seats, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, power steering, height adjustable seat, twin air bags, side air bags, abs, auto-dip rearview, cruise control, adjustable blue, 60100 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

SEBRING, Limited, ko08mxj, remote central locking, immobiliser, full leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, stability control, cruise control, multiple airbags, isofix, heated seats, height adjustable seat, electric seats, rear armrest, rear headrests, front fog lamps, powered folding mirrors, 18" alloys, black, 26000 miles, £8999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, 1.6 HDi 625Kg X 75ps L1 Diesel, gf09ytb, white, 5 miles, £7995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, aaaaaa, cd player, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, brand new. delivery mileage. grp lined. hubbard fridge standby available if required (optional extra). over 50 fridge vans in stock. BHRV.co.uk, white, 15 miles, £9595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

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TACUMA, SX, de55 lju, air conditioning, power steering, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, abs, twin air bags, cd player, radio, front fog lamps, black, 27600 miles, £3995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

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BERLINGO, 1.6 HDi 625Kg X 75ps L1 Diesel, gf09ytb, white, 5 miles, £7995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, aaaaaa, cd player, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, brand new. delivery mileage. grp lined. hubbard fridge standby available if required (optional extra). over 50 fridge vans in stock. BHRV.co.uk, white, 15 miles, £9595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, fn04zvv, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, air bag, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio cassette, refrigerated display, heated display, hand wash facilities. white, 0 miles, £8995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, w173knu, large fridge. large oven. hot & cold water. ambient section. white, 77000 miles, £6995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, ld59ees, satellite navigation, power steering, remote central locking, immobiliser, electric mirrors, electric windows, abs, air bag, bluetooth, cd player, brand new. immediate delivery. grp lined. gah equipment. electric standby available if required. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 1 miles, £11595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, HDi 600 LX Refrigerated Chiller, fd07uba, side load door, cd player, air bag, abs, remote central locking, immobiliser, electric windows, electric mirrors, grp lined. hubbard fridge. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 0 miles, £5995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

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BERLINGO, 625 LX HDi Refrigerated Chiller Freezer, mv58zhn, dual passenger seat, side load door, cd player, abs, air bag, electric windows, electric mirrors, power steering, remote central locking, immobiliser, grp lined. hubbard fridge. electric stanby. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 12000 miles, £9995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, LX 600 D Refrigerated Chiller With Standby, lv05myj, cd player, electric windows, power steering, remote central locking, abs, air bag, electric mirrors, grp lined. gah fridge. electric standby. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 25000 miles, £6495, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Multispace, s923 ecd, power steering, air bag, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, cloth upholstery, red, 85100 miles, £1995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Exclusive, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, artic steel, 9522 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Forte, 1999, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats, blue, 24000 miles, £2600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 HDi 75hp L1 625 X van, 2008, white, 10000 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 HDi 75hp L1 625 X van, 2009, white, 5000 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 HDi 90hp L1 625 X van, 2009, white, 5000 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Forte, 1999, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats, blue, 24000 miles, £2600, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Desire, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer panoramic sunroof remote central locking, silver, 10100 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 HDi 75hp L1 625 X van, 2009, white, 5000 miles, £8500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 HDi 90hp L1 625 X van, 2009, white, 5000 miles, £8500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 HDi 75hp L1 625 X van, 2008, white, 10000 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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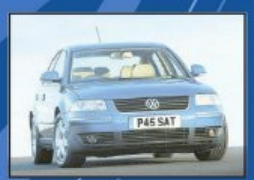


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BERLINGO, Forte, 1999, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats, blue, 24000 miles, £2600, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Exclusive, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, artic steel, 9522 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 HDi 75hp L1 625 X van, 2008, white, 10000 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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BERLINGO, Desire, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer panoramic sunroof remote central locking, silver, 10100 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BERLINGO Multispace, ye08kvw, pas, abs, remote central locking, front fog lights, radio/cd, trip computer, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, 3x3 point rear seat belts, rear headrests, front head restraints,beige, 7000 miles, £8995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.4 Sport 3dr Hatch, wn58wcy, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, sports seats, traction control, tropicalia yellow, 15 miles, £10995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, Lounge, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, black, 4600 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, red, 55 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £14100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, red, 55 miles, £14100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 POP, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, white over 4000 cars in group stock, 500 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, Sport, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, pasodoble red, 1800 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, tropicalia yellow 4000 cars in group stock, 14023 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, red, 55 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, red, 55 miles, £13990, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, black, 5000 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows, red, 50 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, black, 50 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, blue, 50 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, Sport, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels electric windows half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint mp3 player multiple airbags reverse parking aid, silver, 50 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser, red, 55 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, black, 55 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, calypso orange, 7410 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Sport, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history half leather trim immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats sports seats trip computer remote central locking, blue, 13000 miles, £9950, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Sport, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, black, 3983 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Sport, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, grey, 2265 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser, red, 55 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 5, ef06sye, insurance group 12 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers cruise control drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors electrically adjustable drivers seat folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment 1 owner service history, ink blue, 26000 miles, £6283, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 5, et06hjk, insurance group 11 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment 1 owner service history, moondust silver, 40000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 5, ml56yfv, insurance group 11 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment 1 owner service history, sea grey, 22000 miles, £6289, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

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C-MAX, 5, av56ftk, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning alarm audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd moondust silver, 32000 miles, £7000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

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C-MAX, 5, yp08xsc, insurance group 11 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat panther black, 8000 miles, £10000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 5, ks06rsx, insurance group 7 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment 1 owner service history, moondust silver, 44000 miles, £7000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

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C-MAX, 5, mk08oeb, insurance group 6 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment 1 owner service history, avlon blue, 10000 miles, £9000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

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Smaller firms stay positive for New Year

By **ANDY ROGERS**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BUSINESSES in Kent are approaching the New Year in better financial health and with more optimism than this time last year, according to a study by O2.

The telecoms giant's Small Business Confidence Index quizzed nearly 500 small-business owners in Kent to gauge how the sector responded to the economic climate in 2009.


UPBEAT: Shaf Rasul

And it showed that many had streamlined operations in the last 12 months to capitalise on an expected upturn for 2010.

Entrepreneur and star of BBC Online Dragons' Den Shaf Rasul summed it up: "Throughout a year of the deepest recession on record, small businesses have been finding ways to adapt to the climate and, in some cases, even use it to their advantage – and they are now entering 2010 ready to fight.

"The current mood, while cautious and realistic, is by no means bleak, and these findings really are testament to the resilience of the UK small business sector."

The findings by O2 were underpinned by positive news across the South East from the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales (ICAEW) where director Fay Webster, said: "We have seen gross profits and sales volumes nosedive over the past 12 months, but now firms say they are expecting to see a return to growth next year.

"Gross profits are projected to be five per cent higher in 12 months' time. This is the strongest expected rate of growth since Q1 2008, although it is still below historic norms."

More than a quarter of the businesses in the O2 survey said they are now financially stronger than a year ago and nearly a third (32 per cent) feel more confident.

But it hasn't been without pain from pay freezes, unpaid holidays and redundancies. Nearly four out of 10 (39 per cent) small businesses in Kent have cut staff, compared with one in 100 six months ago.

However, Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures show South East unemployment is two per cent below the national average.

And more than half (59 per cent) of companies in the study believe these unpopular measures will ensure their businesses perform better in 2010. A third (35 per cent) even predicted increased profits in the next three months.

But economic uncertainty and poor consumer confidence remain the biggest concerns, with most (69 per cent) believing the UK is still in recession.

Other key concerns include the impending January 1 VAT increase (38 per cent), a rise in interest rates (30 per cent) and reluctance from the banks to change lending policies (34 per cent).

Ms Webster echoed the point about the banks: "Cash flow is a key issue for businesses in the region as late payment from customers is a growing concern.

"It would be helpful if banks were backing the recovery more. Access to finance continues to be a problem despite Government reassurances and a willingness to invest by companies. We urge policy makers to be careful that the measures they announce support economic recovery."

According to O2, many firms have still managed to maintain investment in technology and two-thirds (66 per cent) plan to maintain current spending, with 16 per cent planning an increase next year.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Expertise at The Bridge's hi-tech heart

MANAGEMENT of Dartford's smart new business and innovation centre, The Nucleus, has been placed with a specialist in the field.

Oxford Innovation is seen as the leading operator of such sites and in nurturing technology businesses. It manages 11 other innovation centres and offers business support services to more than 350 start-up firms.

The Nucleus has 30,000 sq ft of quality office space for up to 65 start-up or growing companies in the science and technology sectors.

It forms part of The Bridge site, a £500 million mixed-use regeneration joint venture between Dartford Borough Council and ProLogis Developments due to include a science and business park with more than 1,038,000 sq ft of office and laboratory space.

The partners believe the appointment of an expert contractor like Oxford Innovation fits a long-term strategy to develop a bedrock of knowledge-based businesses in Dartford and the Thames Gateway.

Dartford council managing director Graham Harris said: "Our appointment of Oxford Innovation means that we can continue to provide early-stage, high-growth businesses at The Nucleus with a combination of quality premises and the specialist support they need to grow and contribute to the prosperity of Dartford and the Thames Gateway."

Paul Weston, senior vice-president at ProLogis, said of Oxford Innovation: "They bring the specialist skills and networks required to provide early-stage businesses with the best possible chance of success and to meet their needs as they develop and grow."

The Nucleus's pitch to companies is cutting-edge offices on flexible terms with access to investment networks and a venture capital fund, plus links to research establishments, networking events and mentoring. Environmental technology firms can access specialist expertise from the Institute for Sustainability, a centre of research excellence based at The Bridge.

The complex now has 22 occupiers and 11 companies using its virtual office service with 65 per cent of the space occupied.

Centre director Dr Alex Smeets said: "Our aim is to develop the Nucleus as a flagship innovation centre that will be a hub of entrepreneurial activity for early stage technology companies.

"The Nucleus is right at the heart of the sustainable business community at The Bridge. We look forward to welcoming more entrepreneurs."

A 670,000 sq ft section of the overall Bridge site has been pre-let to supermarket giant Sainsbury's and 1,500 homes are also planned.



SHAKE ON IT: Graham Harris and Dr Alex Smeets outside the Nucleus at The Bridge



The ethos is simple: 'Everyone matters'



FULSTON MANOR: Head Alan Brookes and bursar Sharon Spink receive their award from Burgess Hodgson's Mark Laughton



To see this, search 'Fulston' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Julie Maddocks visits Fulston Manor School and speaks to headteacher Alan Brookes

KOS Media £1 Million Business Challenge Awards Public Sector winner Fulston Manor has encouraged other schools to "have a go" and make a difference.

By **JILL HURST**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Headteacher Alan Brookes believes the Sittingbourne school won the award, together with a £55,000 marketing budget, because their school ethos sets them apart from the rest.

He said: "Fulston Manor is a business enterprise school and we believe everybody matters, everybody succeeds and everybody helps.

"Everyone is good at something – that may be an academic subject, a sport or an art. It doesn't matter what it is.

"What matters is that everybody has a go."

KOS Media managing director Paul Stannard said: "The aim of this award was to recognise a public sector organisation that demonstrated a passion for its work and would use a share of the £1 million advertising and marketing prize fund to improve knowledge of its service in the community.

"Fulston Manor School won because the strong traditional values such as courtesy and respect that the school prides itself upon impressed the judges.

"The written submissions from the students were powerful and demonstrated a positive relationship between pupils and teaching staff."



THRILLED: Alan Brookes

The headteacher was shocked to receive the prize. He said: "We were delighted just to be nominated so were thrilled to win.

"We are a popular school and had an outstanding Ofsted report last year so we can't use the prize fund like any shop or business would.

"We are a national support school and offer educational conferences, community work, evening classes and even IT classes for pensioners, so we will use the money to reach the wider audience."

Having started at the school as an English teacher 28 years ago, Mr Brookes believes the focus on people is an enduring quality of Fulston Manor.

"It's a happy place and people-focused," he said. "We concentrate on the community first and fit things around them. We want everyone to succeed and that approach works."

Susi's strategy is judged to be impressive

FAMILY law solicitor Susi Gillespie has received a pat on the back from the legal profession.

Ms Gillespie, of Kent-based Furley Page, has not only just passed her Higher Rights of Audience Advocacy training course, but her 'trial strategy' was judged so impressive that it may be used as a model for future candidates.

Her specialist area is family breakdown, divorce and cohabitation disputes, but her main area of interest is issues involving



EXPERTISE: Susi Gillespie

children. Furley Page partner and head of family law, James Muir-Little, said: "While only a minority of cases we deal with end up in the High Court, the fact that Susi has obtained this qualification means our clients know they are being represented by a highly competent advocate.

"Depending on your particular case, the advantage of being represented by a solicitor rather than a barrister is that your solicitor has the detailed knowledge of your case that comes from knowing you for months, if not years.

"In contrast, barristers usually receive your papers just a few days before the hearing."



X-ray garden's inside story



PICTURE THIS: Photographer Nick Veasey with Donna Johnson, Millbrook mananging director Tammy Woodhouse, and Neil Johnson

GARDENERS get a double insight through Millbrook Garden Company's 2010 calendar.

Not only can they plan their year, but also see the structure of plants mapped out by X-ray images commissioned from Kent artist Nick Veasey, who works out of a converted radar bunker at Thurnham, near Maidstone.

The calendar was launched at one of two annual charity festive evenings at Millbrook's Southfleet Garden Centre, raising £4,884 for the Forget Me Not appeal, launched in memory of Ben Johnson, from Gravesend, who died of leukaemia in 2007.

Ben's parents Neil and Donna joined Nick at Millbrook for the calendar's launch. The limited edition calendars are available at Millbrook garden centres at Southfleet, Gravesend and Crowborough.

EATING out statistics were tipped to rise in the run-up to Christmas, but consumers are expected to slash spending in the New Year as continued economic uncertainty and job fears kick in.

The QuickBite survey by Horizons Research reported that figures for December traditionally show a more than 20 per cent upsurge in trading for restaurants, fast service restaurants and pubs.

But it also forecast a chillier time than usual for the same sector in January as VAT rises, credit card bills arrive, temperatures drop and threatened industrial action all depress the nation's mood.

Horizons MD Peter Backman sketched a mixed outlook: "Overall, the market is bottoming out and next year may see some growth.

"More likely though, year-on-year figures will bounce along the bottom for most of 2010.

"However, there is a danger of some growth followed by a further downturn due to rising unemployment, more corporate failures, a hung Parliament, and the much-anticipated growth in GDP not arriving which will dent confidence further."

CONSTRUCTION firms hit hard by the recession could avoid so many damaging disputes with clients if they based their contracts on firm foundations, says a Kent chartered building surveyors practice.

Richard Metcalfe, of Metcalfe Stanley Hicks, based in Hadlow, said: "There may be insufficient detailed contract documents, leading to wrong assumptions, unexpected complications, poor labour or contract management, bad weather, changes in client requirements, slow decision-making or lack of financial management."

The ensuing mediation, adjudication, arbitration or litigation can prove costly, he added, yet could be avoided by clearly defined contracting, timings and maintenance of good communication throughout.

Not surprisingly though, he advocates using a professional, such as a chartered building surveyor to mediate before it comes to court action.

BASS Engineering of Hadlow is celebrating an NVQ qualification in Business Improvement Techniques.

The company, in Tonbridge Road, specialises in precision engineering services including manufacture of plastic and metal components.

Its six-strong staff started working towards the NVQ after MD Steve Bass recognised that, during a recession, it was important to keep efficiency high and operating costs low.

The NVQ Level 2 training was provided at no financial cost to Bass by business improvement consultant Optimorph in partnership with Thanet College.

The qualification covered six options including health and safety, effective team-working, workplace organisation, continuous improvement, visual management and problem-solving.

Mr Bass said: "I was keen for my staff to be skilled not just in engineering but running a successful business, too.

"The whole team took on the challenge of learning and applying new skills and knowledge.

"We all achieved the qualification in just three months.

"The NVQ qualification has given my team a great morale boost and we are now able to operate a leaner and more cost-effective production line, giving all our customers an improved service."

Sum of parts team equals awards success



PLAYING THEIR PART: Sparshatts' Jason Adams, right, with colleagues, from left, Alan Bicknell, Edward Greenhow, Lee Fletcher, Nicola Clarke, Danny Thundow and Jason Perri

PARTS experts at Mercedes-Benz truck and van dealer Sparshatts of Kent have been named best in their field by the manufacturer.

Presented annually, the Everyday Heroes Business Awards go to the top aftersales performers and Sparshatts beat 21 other UK franchisees to take Parts Dealer Team of the Year.

"Parts staff are often unsung heroes but play a key role in our ongoing success," said Sparshatts' group parts manager Jason Adams, who leads a 29-strong team.

"So it's gratifying that the hard work and commitment to first-class customer care demonstrated by every member of our parts department has been recognised."

He added that high-quality parts back-up was crucial to truck and van operators, who need vehicles on the road earning money, rather than laid up awaiting parts.

Sparshatts keeps £1 million of genuine Mercedes-Benz parts at its Sittingbourne headquarters and depots in Ashford, Dartford and Tunbridge Wells, and can source others for next day.

Mr Adams said: "Prompt and reliable delivery of spares can only be achieved by a strong team and we have one of the best."

Sparshatts' achievement follows 2008's Mercedes-Benz Aftersales Dealer of the Year title, and members of the dealership's sales team landed other awards in 2009.

Martin Kemsley took two awards in connection with the Mitsubishi Fuso Canter – a popular Japanese light truck range sold by Mercedes-Benz dealers – while colleagues Keith Baker and John Nicholls both featured among the UK's top 10 Mercedes truck sales executives.

And in the Mercedes-Benz Van Academy awards for light commercial vehicle sales staff, Sparshatts' Tony Kitchen was one of only 21 specialists nationally to win a gold award; Lee Greenhow and Helen Walker took silver and Alex Little, Andrew Sparshatt and Alan Stevens gained bronze.

Recession's legacy to be 'thrift shift'

BUSINESSES in Kent and the South East may yet benefit from the recession by adopting a 'thrifty' mindset, making them stronger for the future.

By **ANDY ROGERS**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

That is the forecast from sustainability experts at the Government-funded Envirowise, which has published a Business Thrift Shift Report revealing that more than two-thirds (70 per cent) of respondents in our region now know more about their spending and resource use as a result of the recession.

Reduction of spend on raw materials and consumables was a major area of cutbacks (42 per cent), with many also minimising their water, energy and transport use.

And this thrift shift is set to continue, with 94 per cent expecting to be more careful about how they use their resources once recovery comes.

Envirowise regional manager Lisa Mattsson said: "South East businesses have been facing serious challenges as a result of the recession and this is perhaps reflected in the number of survey respondents reducing staff costs during this period (43 per cent).

Environmental

"However, it is also clear that for many companies this period of economic difficulty has stimulated a more resource-conscious mindset, galvanising environmental commitments that had perhaps been lower down the business agenda.

"We know from experience that resource efficiency goes hand-in-hand with profitability, so it is encouraging to see better management of raw materials, energy and water forming an important component of the business response to recession in the region.

"Such an approach does not only lead to financial savings; it can also equip businesses to face increasing levels of environmental legislation and provides an important competitive advantage as customers become more environmentally conscious.

"These companies are not only more likely to survive the recession in the short-term, but are also better placed to thrive when the economy begins to recover."

Since 1994 Envirowise claims to have helped UK businesses save more than £1 billion through reducing their environmental footprints.

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Sports Review 2009

Picture: ADY KERRY



Picture: ADY KERRY



KOS Media reporters DAVID PRITCHARD, STEVE TERVET and TOM HOWARD look back at the big stories that made the headlines in what has been another fantastic year of sport in the county

JANUARY

ONLY a debatable penalty ended Gillingham's hopes of claiming a huge FA Cup scalp as England winger James Milner struck twice for Aston Villa in their 2-1 win at Priestfield.

Mark Stimson's side were 11 minutes from earning a replay following Simeon Jackson's superb equaliser, but Ashley Young went down under the challenge of Adam Miller and Milner beat Simon Royce from the spot.

For the majority of the 10,107 supporters packed into Priestfield, the goal came as a heartbreaker, but the club's coffers were swelled to the tune of £300,000 thanks to ITV's live coverage of the match and the bumper gate receipts.

Villa manager Martin O'Neill said: "Before we got the penalty I would have settled going back to Villa Park for a replay."



Following the sacking of Peter Moores, Kent director of cricket Graham Ford (pictured) threw his name into the ring as the ECB looked to appoint a new England head coach.

The South African, who had previously turned down opportunities to coach India and New Zealand, said the England job would suit him better, having spent four years in the country.

Ford said: "I know the players in England and I know who is likely to contest for a Test place. England has always been a country I admire and it would be a privilege to work with the top players."

FEBRUARY

CODY McDonald continued his meteoric rise up the football pyramid with a dream move to Norwich City on transfer deadline day.



RISE: Cody McDonald with then Norwich boss Brian Gunn

The 22-year-old striker caught the eye of a host of Football League clubs after a dazzling spell with Dartford, which saw him net 19 goals in 20 games. Darts boss Tony Burman, who signed McDonald from Maldon Town four months earlier, was delighted for the livewire forward.

He said: "We would've loved to have kept him, but the joy of seeing one of your players become a professional outweighs those emotions."

McDonald duly got his Roy of the Rovers moment, coming off the bench to score against Cardiff on his debut.

Ebbsfleet United faced an uncertain future after less than a third of their website members opted to renew their subscriptions.

Owners MyFootballClub were aiming for two-thirds of the 32,000 membership to stay on, but fewer than 10,000 paid the £35 annual fee.

David Davis, Fleet's chief executive, warned the shortfall would lead to cuts: "Going back to part-time is an option and we are not ruling it out at this stage."

The club were ultimately forced to halve their wage budget as a result, which saw the majority of the squad leave in the summer.

MARCH

FORMER Kent Academy coach Paul Farbrace escaped with only minor injuries after the Sri Lanka cricket squad was attacked by terrorists in Pakistan (pictured).

The 41-year-old, then assistant coach of the national side, suffered shrapnel wounds in the ambush of the team's bus. Miraculously all of the touring party survived but six policemen and a driver were killed.



Picture: GETTY IMAGES

Speaking from his hospital bed in Colombo, he said: "I'm grateful I'm alive and for the driver's skill and calm thinking to get us out of the situation. Also to the people around us who did their best for us – obviously it's desperately sad when anybody dies and people died outside of the bus who were there to protect us."

Later in the month, Kent's Amjad Khan made his England Test debut, dismissing Ramnaresh Sarwan in the final game of the West Indies series in Trinidad.

Blackheath Rugby Club rounded off a year of celebrations for their 150th anniversary with an exhibition against the Barbarians.

A bumper crowd of about 3,000 turned out at Rectory Field to watch the renowned exhibition side take on Heath, the oldest open rugby club in the world.

Former Scotland prop Gordon Bulloch and Wales Six Nations winner Kevin Morgan were in the line-up for the game, which turned out to be a thriller. The National 2 side put up a spirited display in the game, which the visitors won 57-45.

Heath coach Yusuf Ibrahim said: "It was a great advert for the game of rugby and to celebrate our 150-year anniversary."

APRIL

DOVER Athletic celebrated winning promotion to the Blue Square South after dominating the Ryman Premier League (pictured).

Andy Hessenthaler's side won the title with five games of the season remaining and ended the campaign with a 6-0 thrashing of Sutton United in front of 1,400 supporters at Crabble.

Hessenthaler said: "It's a tremendous achievement for everybody connected with the club."

While there was delight for Dover, Tonbridge Angels missed out on promotion to Blue Square South after losing 3-2 in the play-off semi-final against Carshalton Athletic.



Picture: SIMON HARRIS

Ramsgate were relegated to Ryman Division One South after finishing bottom of the league. Despite finishing the season in the relegation zone, Margate were given a reprieve.

In Ryman South, Cray Wanderers won promotion to the Ryman Premier League via the play-offs, while VCD Athletic took the Kent League title.

Kent signed young South African bowler Wayne Parnell as an overseas replacement for paceman Stuart Clark who was called up by Australia.

The 19-year-old left-arm seamer, who had 27 wickets to his name from 11 first-class games for his native Eastern Province side, signed on an initial six-week basis.

Kent director of cricket, Graham Ford, said: "Wayne is a young cricketer who has come through in South Africa. He has captained South Africa under-19s and showed he has a mature head on his shoulders as well as a fantastic work ethic."

Elsewhere in April, the European Rallycross Championship returned to Lydden Hill, near Dover, for the first time since 1996.

A record crowd of 20,000 flocked to see 14-time European champion Kenneth Hansen win the opening round of the 2009 series.

MAY

GILLINGHAM'S first visit to the new Wembley Stadium ended dramatically as they clinched promotion with a last-gasp winner against Shrewsbury Town in the play-off final.

After notching both goals in the 2-1 play-off semi-final victory against Rochdale, Simeon Jackson took his season's tally to 21 by nodding home Josh Wright's 90th-minute corner.

Almost 30,000 Gillingham fans made the trip, which provided sweet revenge against a side that beat them 7-0 earlier in the season.

Manager Mark Stimson, who had borne the brunt of fans' criticism after the club's relegation a year earlier, said: "Relegation hurts more than you can imagine and we had to get over that. I'm sure we will be trying to make it attractive as possible to get as many of that 30,000 crowd back to Priestfield."



Picture: ADY KERRY

The London Golf Club hosted the European Open for the second successive year, with 90,000 fans watching a high-class field, including John Daly (pictured) across the four days.

Unlike the previous year, the final day saw an enthralling contest. At one stage the top-10 were separated by just two shots, but as more big names fell by the wayside, Christian Cevaer held his nerve to lift the title by one shot.

The unheralded Frenchman said: "I'm ecstatic to come out on top. To be honest I saw the leaderboard on 17 and saw other guys also on seven-under.

"What a great surprise to come down 18 and see I was the only guy left on seven-under. It's amazing."

JUNE

THE Australian cricket team trained at Beckenham ahead of the first Ashes Test in Cardiff, with Kent's youngsters given a chance to bowl at the tourists.

Ricky Ponting's side used the net facilities at Worsley Bridge Road and provided the likes of Phil Edwards, Warren Lee and Matt Coles with a once-in-a-lifetime experience as they bowled at Mike Hussey, Michael Clarke and Brad Haddin.

The Aussies split into three groups, with one in the nets, one taking slip catches and another working on high catches.

Seam bowler Edwards said: "It was a really good experience standing next to Brett Lee, getting ready to bowl, it was a bit surreal really. They were really good though, they all made an effort to talk to us during practice and gave us feedback about our bowling during the session, which really helped."

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Picture: JAMES BOARDMAN



ON THE UP: Gillingham (left) and Kent (above) both secured promotion in 2009



Picture: ADY KERRY

Charlotte Edwards (pictured) lifted the ICC Women's World Twenty20 trophy after captaining England to a six-wicket win over New Zealand.

The Kent and England skipper, along with county teammate Lydia Greenway, did something the men have not done in over three decades – win an international tournament.

England's win catapulted women's cricket into the public glare, with 14,000 fans watching the final, which preceded the conclusion of the men's competition.

Greenway said: "I think it could be the turning point for the women's game, purely from the amount of press coverage we got – we were on the front pages of national newspapers.

"It's been a really good boost for women's cricket because a lot of supporters wouldn't have watched the women's game before. Hopefully we have converted a few."

JULY

KRISTIAN House produced a career-best ride to clinch the National Road Race Championships in Wales.

The 29-year-old, who grew up in Canterbury, shocked a high-class field to take the title, which included Tour De France star Mark Cavendish and Olympic champion Bradley Wiggins.

House said: "It's by far the highlight of my career, the biggest win and the most special. You dream about it for years and it's been a bit overwhelming, but it doesn't change anything."



Picture: NICK DUNGAN

Motorsport mourned the death of up-and-coming young racer Henry Surtees, who died in a freak accident during a Formula Two race at Brands Hatch.

Surtees, the son of Formula One champion John Surtees, was set for a bright future in the sport and picked up his first podium finish just 24 hours before the accident.

During the second race on Sunday, July 19, the 18-year-old from Edenbridge was struck on the head by an errant wheel while he was travelling at 120mph. The blow knocked him unconscious and after being airlifted to the Royal London Hospital, he was pronounced dead.

In interview a week before the accident, Surtees said he was hoping to follow his father's footsteps into Formula One.

Drivers and fans from across the world paid their respects, including Formula One star Felipe Massa.

AUGUST

PAUL Farbrace (pictured) was announced as Graham Ford's successor at Kent, having turned down a new contract offer to continue as Sri Lanka's assistant coach.

The 40-year-old, who opted instead to take over as first-team coach at St Lawrence, returned to the club where he played 40 times as wicketkeeper between 1987 and 1989.



Having finished his playing career at Middlesex in 1995, Farbrace coached the England under-19 and women's teams before teaming up with Trevor Bayliss in Sri Lanka.

However, he was approached by the county during Sri Lanka's stay in England for the World Twenty 20 and admitted the chance to return to Kent was too good to turn down.

He said: "I am very pleased to get the opportunity as I think it is a good time to be coming back to county cricket and, more importantly, a great time in terms of where Kent Cricket Club are at."



Picture: GETTY IAMGES

LISA Dobriskey (pictured) scooped the 1500m silver medal at the World Athletics Championships a year after finishing fourth at the Beijing Olympics.

The Ashford-born runner crossed the line third but was promoted after gold medallist Natalia Rodriguez was disqualified, while Dobriskey was only a tenth of a second behind eventual winner Maryam Yusuf Jamal from Bahrain.

Injury meant Dobriskey missed a large chunk of the athletics season and she expressed her relief at being able to return in time for the Championships in Berlin.

She said: "Winning the medal was such a relief as I was desperate not to repeat the heartache of Beijing and I've finally lost the tag of someone who nearly made it."

SEPTEMBER

KENT wrapped up the County Championship Division Two title with a game to spare following a draw with Leicestershire at Canterbury.

Rob Key's men had been the class act in the division all season, winning eight of their first 15 games. They won enough bonus points from their penultimate fixture to clinch top spot and celebrate in front of their supporters at the St Lawrence Ground.

Coach Simon Willis said: "What happened last year happened and we started preparing to get promotion half an hour after the last game of the season. Our number one goal was getting promotion and it's nice to have achieved it."

It ensured the county's exile out of the top flight was mercifully brief following relegation from Division One a year earlier.



Picture: ADY KERRY

Benn Barham narrowly missed out on breaking his duck on the European Tour as he was agonisingly pipped at the post in the Austrian Open.

The 33-year-old from Tenterden played superbly to lead at the end of the first three days after rounds of 63, 66 and 67. Barham then carded a competitive two-under-par round of 69 in the final round to finish the tournament on 19-under-par. But Spanish golfer Rafael Cabrera-Bello produced an astonishing round of 60 to pinch the title by one shot.

Barham said: "I thought I'd done enough. I came so close, which was hard to take, but if someone goes and shoots 60 there's not a lot you can do about it."

The missed opportunity proved costly for Barham, who lost his card at the end of a disappointing season. Winning the tournament would have given him a five-year exemption on the Tour.

OCTOBER



Picture: ADY KERRY

KENT decided against offering Matthew Hoggard a contract after KOS Media exclusively revealed the county were interested in the former England paceman.

Hoggard, who spent 15 years with Yorkshire, signed a three-year deal with Leicestershire after Kent first-team coach Paul Farbrace said the bowler would not provide sufficient variety to the bowling attack at St Lawrence in 2010.

Captain Rob Key, however, did put pen to paper on a new long-term deal to keep him at the club, ending rumours of a possible move to Surrey. Key, who has scored more than 14,000 runs for the club, also retained the captaincy for the season ahead.

He said: "I'm very happy to commit my future to Kent. There have been lots of rumours about me leaving the club but at no stage have I spoken, or have other clubs spoken to me. I am and always will be committed to trying to win trophies and bring success to Kent County Cricket Club."

Ebbsfleet United bosses revealed the club could be sold after Christmas as the cash-strapped club continued to struggle on and off the pitch.

After less than a third of MyFootballClub members renewed their subscriptions, manager Liam Daish was forced to release the majority of his squad and the side's form reflected the problems as the Fleet sank deep into the Blue Square Premier relegation zone.

However, officials categorically denied rumours that the club would not survive beyond the end of the season, despite forecasted losses of £130,000 by April.

Vice-chairman Roly Edwards said: "No way – that was never on the cards. The worst-case scenario is the club gets funded to a lower level – Ebbsfleet will still be around in 20 years' time.

"There are two options – the money is raised or the club will be sold. Selling the club is a last resort, but it is a very real possibility."

NOVEMBER



LEON Camier's year was given the perfect ending when he completed his dream move to the Aprilia World Superbike team ahead of the 2010 season.

The Ashford-born rider dominated the British Superbike Championship in 2009, winning 19 of the 26 races and claiming 22 podiums for Airwaves Yamaha.

Camier impressed Aprilia during trials at the tail end of the World Championship season, when he clinched two top-10 finishes in the season's final race in Portugal.

He said: "The move could give me a title shot if not in the first year, but the second year. I've got a lot to learn by moving up to the series, but I'm desperate to win races."



Kent chairman George Kennedy said Jamie Clifford (pictured) would be given the opportunity to take over as full-time chief executive after Paul Millman made a shock exit in November.

Millman, 63, stepped down with immediate effect after 10 years at St Lawrence, with personal reasons cited for his early retirement.

Clifford, 33, the county's director of business development, was announced as his temporary successor with a permanent appointment set to be made before the start of the new season.

Kennedy insisted Millman had left on good terms and that the departure had been on the agenda for some time.

He said: "I don't really want anyone coming out and saying 'were there sinister motives or was he fired', the statement was a true statement – he has left for personal reasons to take early retirement.

"We have got Jamie Clifford in situ now. He's now got a crack at a couple of months of seeing whether he is up to the task."

DECEMBER



Picture: GETTY IAMGES

FORMULA One hopefuls Mike Conway and Gary Paffett helped their chances of securing a 2010 Formula One drive after impressing in an official test in Spain.

Conway, from Sevenoaks, was invited by championship-winning constructer Brawn GP, while Bromley's Gary Paffett joined the McLaren team for the three-day test at Jerez.

Brawn GP team boss Ross Brawn, who masterminded Michael Schumacher's seven world titles, was impressed with Conway's performance.

He said: "Mike has done a very good job during the test. We know him well from his previous test with the team and his feedback has been of his usual excellent standard."

Paffett, driving for McLaren Mercedes, completed more than 200 laps and topped the time sheets on day two of the test.

A popular Kent golf course set about planning an ambitious upgrade to its facilities in a bid to regain the European Open.

The London Club, based near Ash, was left off the European Tour's 2010 calendar. The Kent club has now submitted a planning application for a 100-bed hotel with leisure facilities in a bid to get the Open back to the county in 2011.

Heath Harvey, general manager at the London Club, said: "The last thing we want to see is the end of the European Open. It was an enormous achievement to win it in the first place and we want to fight to get it back."

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Gills ace ignoring transfer rumours

GILLINGHAM'S top scorer insists he is happy to stay at the club until the end of his contract, despite mounting speculation linking him with a move in the January transfer window.

Simeon Jackson has caught the eye after scoring 13 goals before Christmas, following on from the 21 goals he scored for the Gills last season.

Several clubs in the Premier League and Championship have watched the striker, with new QPR boss Paul Hart reportedly keen on a £1.5 million move.

The 22-year-old has always publicly maintained an impressive stoicism in the light of the speculation and the Canada international continues to rebuff any talk of leaving Priestfield.

He said: "There's been a lot of linkage in the last few weeks and it's around that time so it's probably going to come again, but I'm just going to concentrate on the next game.

"I've got a contract here for the season after this and I feel like I want to keep trying to improve and work hard."

Whether Gillingham would be able to resist such a bid, which would equal the club's record transfer fee received and be 10 times what they paid Rushden & Diamonds two years ago, remains another matter.

Talk of a move away can go to players' heads, but Jackson remains in impressive form and believes the uncertainty has helped him focus on improving his game.

"Yeah, of course, it's good to have that distraction but for me personally it's all about keeping my head down," he said.

"Sometimes [the speculation] is frustrating because you do get a lot of stick for it, but it's part of football really. If I had it my way it would happen quietly, but it's how it happens in the press."



IN FORM: Simeon Jackson already has 13 goals to his name for Gillingham this season Picture: ADY KERRY

NOW THE HARD PART

Shepherd aims for revenge over ex-champion who shattered his world title dream

By **STEVE TERVET**

KIRK Shepherd and John Part go head-to-head on the Alexandra Palace stage tomorrow in a repeat of the 2008 final.

Then, Part ended Shepherd's epic adventure at the final hurdle, winning 7-2, and the two are paired again, this time at the second-round stage of the PDC World Championships, with Shepherd once again a 500-1 outsider for the tournament.

The 23-year-old, from Ramsgate, upstaged a series of big names on his way to the summit two tournaments ago, beating Peter Manley and Wayne Mardle in the latter stages of the competition, and he must now do the same again if he is to repeat that feat.

Opportunity

He said: "I would like to get revenge on John. Being world champion would have changed my life forever – I was working 8-5 before the final. It gave me an opportunity to take up darts and the journey won't end here, whatever happens.

"Give it five or six years and people will forget who John beat in that final, so it is important to make more of an impression."

Ranked fourth in the PDC order of merit, the Canadian starts the match as hot favourite, but Shepherd can take encouragement by his opponent's lean form over the past 12 months.

Ontario-based Part, referred to in darting circles as Darth Maple, mirrored Shepherd's disastrous campaign at the 2009 World Championships as both crashed out in the first round.

While Shepherd was going down 3-2 to Jan van der Rassel, Part was humbled 3-0 by American Bill Davis and his fortunes failed to improve at the World Matchplay, where he again exited in round one.

A semi-final appearance in the Las Vegas Desert Classic was a rare highlight for the three-time world champion, who won only twice as he slumped to second-bottom in the Premier League.

Shepherd, meanwhile, has enjoyed an upturn in form recently, recovering from a 5-0 defeat against Mervyn King to reach the knockout stages of the Grand Slam of Darts and making the third round at the German Darts Championship, where King again proved too good.

Two years ago, Shepherd was earning £8,000 a year as a sheet metal worker in Thanet, before he scooped the £50,000 prize money for reaching the final.

Tomorrow's tie, which is due to start at 2.25pm, sees Part once again starting as firm favourite, although the pressure of the Ally Pally stage has already played its part in some high-profile departures over the past week.

Shepherd, ranked 25 places below Part and 20 years his junior, beat Scott Burnett 3-0 in the first round and will hope to emulate Jyhan Artut, Steve Hine and Barrie Bates, who spelt the end for Mardle, Roland Scholten and Jelle Klaasen respectively last weekend.





PART II: Kirk Shepherd faces John Part, (right) who beat him in the final, two tournaments ago, to end his superb run in the PDC World Darts Championships

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ISSN 2042-084-6

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